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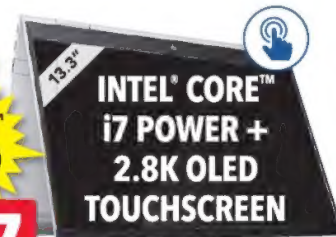
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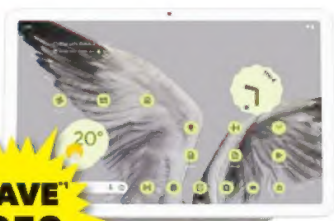


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BLACK FRIDAY

The Canberra Times

Price \$3.00

TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY

Bruce Lehrmann arrives at the Federal Court in Sydney on Wednesday. Picture AAP



'Defriended' Lehrmann sent into a deep spiral

Bruce Lehrmann has told a defamation trial he was abandoned by friends after rape allegations against him were broadcast, leaving him severely isolated. Mr Lehrmann told the court he became the victim of "quite disgusting" social media treatment following the airing of allegations.

Report: Page 7

Libs vote in empty chair for president

Conservatives dumped at AGM

Karen Barlow, Jasper Lindell

LIBERAL conservatives have been blasted out of the top party positions in the ACT, leaving an empty chair temporarily as president.

The long-time ally of former ACT senator Zed Seselja, John Czesla, was voted out of the position to an empty chair 117 votes to 123 during a fiery meeting on Tuesday night that went on for more than four hours, and was described by some Liberal members as chaotic.

The revolt was driven by fed-up moderates who have

endured the party being out of power in the territory government for more than a generation and losing the plum Senate spot that had been held by the Liberals since 1975.

"It was the turning of the tide," one said. "This is a huge denunciation of the angry Zed mob."

Another said it was "hugely significant" and an indication the party has shifted and was prepared to back Elizabeth Lee as Liberal leader.

They said the result indicated the depth of concern over the way the division had

been run that people voted against the president when there was no immediate alternative.

Canberra Liberals are claiming a "new beginning" and a major rebuff to the conservatives, who have long controlled the party, after the fractious and drawn out annual general meeting that went on for more than four hours.

Several sources, who asked to remain anonymous so they could speak freely, said Mr Czesla did not have the crucial backing of Ms Lee.

Continued Page 10



See inside for 8 pages of amazing HOME APPLIANCE & AUDIO VISUAL DEALS

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'Let the children play': the Questacon building turns 35

Megan Doherty

DURING the discussions about what a National Science and Technology Centre in Canberra should look like, Professor Mike Gore gave this advice to architect Lawrence Nield: "let the children play" and see where that led them.

The result was a building that became known as Questacon and that was about fun as much as innovation.

The spiral staircase allowed visitors to go up or down or in or out of the exhibits, and the glass foyer permitted passers-by to watch people discover the building.

Thursday marks 35 years since Questacon was opened by Prime Minister Bob Hawke on November 23, 1988, as a joint Australian-Japanese Bicentennial Project.

There is a party, this Saturday and Sunday, and everyone is invited.

The free Community Celebration will open the front of the building, along with half-price entry to visit inside the centre.

"A family pass will be

\$35 for the 35th anniversary," Questacon director Jo White said.

The free outside activities will be held 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Questacon's Science Circus will guide visitors through 16 exhibits and science experiences. Our Excited Particles will perform Spectacular Science Shows

on centre stage. And you will be able to meet a "Flightless Fairy".

Commemorative pins will also be handed out to the first 1000 visitors each day.

Questacon began in 1980 as a project of the Australian National University, in spare space at the Ainslie Public School, under the guidance of founder Professor

Mike Gore.

In 1982, the Australian Bicentennial Authority proposed that a national science centre be established as a lasting memorial to the 1988 Australian Bicentenary. The first sod was turned on the site in 1986 and the building was completed in 1988 at a cost of \$19.64 million. The Japanese Government and

business community contributed half the cost of the building.

Since the building opened in 1988, more than 12 million visitors have been through it.

Ms White said Questacon was a "much-loved part of the community".

"It's brought science to so many people in an inspiring and engaging way," she said.

"It's also a must-do when people come to Canberra."

To celebrate the 35th anniversary, Questacon is sharing a collection of stories on the Questacon website.

The stories range from its history to the national impact of its touring programs.

Ms White said recent federal funding would be directed to extending the life of the building and specific upgrades including a revamp of the Mini-Q zone for babies to six-year-olds.

It had also recently introduced a calm space for neurodiverse children.

She said there was also a lot of nostalgia around Questacon from young adults who remembered coming there as a child.

"We want everyone, no matter what their age, to help us celebrate 35 years of Questacon," she said.

QUESTACON PARTY

- When: Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 5pm
- Where: Questacon, King Edward Terrace, Parkes
- What: Free science activities and exhibits out the front of the building and discounted tickets to go inside

Questacon director Jo White says the centre is a much-loved part of Canberra. Picture by Keegan Carroll



Greater ACT power reliability promised

Karen Barlow

THE reliability and capacity of the ACT's renewable electricity supply are being shored up in a nationwide deal to increase the power grid by 50 per cent.

It comes amid an attempt to drive down power prices and ensure benchmarks are hit as renewable energy sources are rolled out in the states.

With costs withheld for commercial reasons, Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen will on Thursday announce the government is working with the states and territories on expansions of the existing Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) and the National Energy Transformation Partnership

(NETP). The move, just a week out from the start of the COP28 climate conference, is designed to drive down carbon emissions as the government seeks to meet its legislated 43 per cent emissions reduction target, as well as the target to achieve 82 per cent renewables on the grid nationally.

Mr Bowen said this policy is about working towards net zero "hand in glove" with the states and territories and will show "real progress towards the 2030 target and will assist in us determining our 2035 target".

Australia's 2035 emissions reduction target is due to be sorted out by February 2025.

The Albanese government estimates that the move will expand the capacity of the National Electricity Market (NEM) by 32 gi-

gawatts in aggregate. The current NEM has a total electricity generating capacity of more than 65 gigawatts.

Nine gigawatts would be of dispatchable capacity and 23 gigawatts would be of variable renewable capacity.

Half of the extra capacity would be subject to bilateral agreements with the states and territories.

For the ACT, which champions 100 per cent of electricity coming from renewable sources, the move is about shoring up reliability as renewable power is drawn from the surrounding NSW region.

As well as the ACT electrifies households and keeps its fast take up of electric vehicles, the ACT will need to procure more renew-

able energy to meet the demand and keep down power prices.

The ACT investment in renewables have largely shielded territorians from some of the recent national jumps in power prices.

It is understood there are also prospects through this expansion of significant storage facilities being put in place within the ACT.

The CIS started in December 2022 as a way to incentivise the establishment of clean dispatchable generation and storage on the energy grid.

The scheme is about replacing the existing thermal generation assets such as coal and gas and getting more renewables into the system.

It will not support new gas builds.

Veterans and Families Expo

CANBERRA 2023

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25
November

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UNIVERSITY
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4:00pm



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The Canberra Times

VOLUME 98 | NUMBER 32,317

TIMES PAST

November 23, 1974

The last of the 63,652 National Servicemen conscripted since the reintroduction of the scheme in 1964 was discharged at No 1 Task Force Headquarters, Holsworthy in NSW on November 22, 1974. But 2800749 Private PB Stapleton, 23, of the 5/7th Battalion was not over impressed with his new-found freedom. At 1420 hours AEDT he joined the regular Army. Private Stapleton, the last particular man of his own particular "army", was in the last intake of conscripts in July 1972. He could have opted out any time after December 7, 1972 when the Labor Government abandoned the scheme, but was one of several thousand who elected to serve out their time. It was during his time that he realised that although he had been conscripted into it in the first place, the Army was probably where he wanted to be anyway. "It's a good career," he said. What were his views of the National Service scheme? "It helped most of us I think," he said. "Although there were a few that did not like it. I suppose I was quite keen to be called up." Visit: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/12220096>



Shakira May Adams leaves court on Wednesday. Picture supplied

Chief Justice 'not persuaded'

Hannah Neale

A JUDGE is "not persuaded" by two expert reports about whether a woman accused of killing a student in a head-on crash is fit to plead, and is seeking further evidence.

The alleged killer, Shakira May Adams, faced a hearing in the ACT Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Adams is accused of killing 20-year-old Matthew McLuckie when she allegedly crashed head-on into his vehicle in May 2022.

She is yet to enter pleas to five charges, including manslaughter and culpable driving causing death.

The case so far has centred around whether Adams, who suffered a traumatic brain injury as a result of the crash, is fit to plead and potentially stand trial.

Two reports from two separate psychiatrists had been tendered to the court to help



The aftermath of the 2022 crash that killed 20-year-old Matthew McLuckie, inset. Pictures supplied

determine this question.

On Wednesday during a hearing to determine if Adams is fit to plead, Chief Justice Lucy McCallum said the "principle issue is her capacity to follow proceedings with all the support the court can give".

While Legal Aid lawyer Jan de Bruin and prosecutor David Swan were in agreement that Adams was not fit to plead, the judge adjourned

the hearing for the parties to gather more evidence.

Chief Justice McCallum said based on the two reports she was "not persuaded" Adams was unfit.

She stated that both report authors agreed Adams understood the nature of the charges.

However, the expert opinions differed "about her capacity to exercise the right to challenge jurors", the

judge said.

"My task is to assess capacity for the accused to follow a trial in a way that will result in her having a fair trial."

Chief Justice McCallum flagged the possibility of having an intermediary appointed to ensure Adams understood proceedings, if the case did go to a trial.

In 2022, Matthew McLuckie was heading home from his part-time job at the Canberra Airport when his Holden Astra was allegedly hit almost head-on by Adams in a stolen Golf.

Adams was allegedly driving a stolen Volkswagen sedan on the wrong side of Hindmarsh Drive when the car hit Mr McLuckie's vehicle at no less than 177km/h.

He died at the scene while Adams was taken to hospital with major injuries.

Adams is set to face court again in January 2024.

TODAY'S WEATHER

CANBERRA Min 10 Max 26

Cloudy
Chance of rain: 5%

CANBERRA AREA

Light winds becoming east to southeasterly 20 to 30 kmh in the morning. UV index predicted to reach 11 (extreme).

LOTTERIES

Tuesday OzLotto draw No. 1553:

36, 41, 25, 12, 21, 8, 14. Supps: 22, 23, 19.

Division 1: Jackpotted

Division 2: \$105,211.50

Division 3: \$5,040.85

Division 4: \$390.40

Division 5: \$54.85

Division 6: \$26.00

INDEX

PRIVATE CAPITAL
WORLD
LETTERS
OPINION
CAR EXPERT
BUSINESS

13
14
16
28
30
31

PUZZLES
WEATHER
TAKE 5
TELEVISION
CLASSIFIEDS
SPORT

32
33
34
35
37
38

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Last song: Chorister's final youth carols

Lanie Tindale

THIS year's *The Canberra Times* Carols by Candlelight will be particularly poignant for Evangeline Osborne, because it will be her last performance with the Woden Valley Youth Choir.

The 18-year-old has been singing with the choir for nine years.

"I joined the choir because I went to one of their performances a very long time ago, and I fell in love with the way they performed," Ms Osborne said.

"I've loved it ever since, it's been like a family to me."

So much so, Ms Osborne's sister Gwendolyn has followed in her footsteps, while her dad Paul is secretary of the committee.

Leftover proceeds from the event will be donated to Lifeline Canberra.

Ms Osborne's last performance on December 9 will be "sentimental".

"It's been a part of my life for a very long time and I always look forward to it every year," she said.

"It's always an exciting time of the year especially

with Christmas and I feel really glad that I could be a part of it one last time."

The Carols by Candlelight event has run for almost 80 years, with the first concert held in front of Old Parliament House in 1945, the group said.

It was nearly cancelled in

2022, so *The Canberra Times* became naming sponsor.

"*The Canberra Times* have been such great supporters of Woden Valley Youth Choir and I'm so grateful because without them I don't think we'd go ahead," Ms Osborne said.

Sponsoring the event was

a real "Christmas gift", president Kylie Gibson said.

"We wouldn't have had a Carols event without *The Canberra Times* coming on board last year as the naming rights sponsor," she said.

"It was absolutely a lifesaver for us as a choir. We put the event on as a gift for

the community but COVID made it very difficult to keep the event running with sponsorship harder to come by.

"Coming to the rescue as the naming rights sponsor was a wonderful Christmas gift, and it's a Christmas gift that they're doing it again this year."

The Canberra Times Carols by Candlelight

■ Stage 88 in Commonwealth Park
■ December 9 at 6pm

It's been like a family to me.

Evangeline Osborne

The event planning begun at the beginning of the year, while the choristers have been practising jingles for 10 weeks.

"It's a lot of work, but when we see the kids and we see all the happy, smiling families that certainly makes the event worthwhile," Ms Gibson said.

Carols bring joy to the community, Woden Valley Youth Choir artistic director Olivia Swift said.

"It's a real pleasure being part of something that brings so much joy," she said.

"The performers love looking out across the thousands in the audience."



Woden Valley Youth Choir members Evangeline Osborne, 18, Lily-Anne Lancaster, 11, Heloise Moffat, 10 and Gwendolyn Osborne, 13, are ready for The Canberra Times Carols by Candlelight. Picture by Keegan Carroll

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There's a buzz about The Lobby's lawns

Karen Hardy

PERHAPS it's a bit of a stretch to suggest that the parliamentary triangle precinct known as The Lawns of The Lobby is Canberra's field of dreams but there's a touch of "build it and they will come" about it.

Since the fine-dining restaurant Koto opened its doors in August, and now as the new venues take shape, the buzz around the rose gardens is from more than the springtime bees.

Award-winning chef Shaun Quade has been appointed group culinary director and he will oversee the opening of the remaining three concepts.

Quade opened Melbourne's edgiest fine-diner Lume in 2016. The two-hatted restaurant was known for pushing the limits with flavours and concepts.

His signature dish Pearl on the Ocean Floor featured on *MasterChef* in 2016.

Quade left Australia in 2019 for the United States to work in the food technology industry and when he decided to return the idea of

moving to Canberra struck him as a great option.

"There's a huge opportunity in this region," he says.

"I never thought I'd leave LA to move to Canberra, but I couldn't pass up the opportunity to work on this project.

"I think we're going to see enormous growth in the local hospitality industry over

the next few years, fuelled by our proximity to high-quality produce and winemakers, as well as a strong community appetite for new dining experiences.

"There are already some amazing operators doing some really cool stuff here and we want to bring something unique to that scene."

Ballyhoo fills the space which was once the Pork Barrel cafe.

While the familiar pentagonal shape remains, the canvas roof has gone and the space is filled with light by large windows which will slide away as conditions permit.

The menu will be fuelled

by fire and fermentation, more fun dining than fine dining, says Quade.

Rosa's is an all-day garden bar, where during the day you can sit out on the extensive deck eating pizza by the pie or by the slice, as well as takeaway coffee, sandwiches, and pastries. At night it will transform into a vibrant

bar overlooking the rose gardens.

There will also be a focus on events and catering in the precinct. Enlighten is on the radar, so too are weddings and corporate and private events in both the indoor and outdoor spaces.

Quade acknowledges the history of the site which had been vacant since 2017 when the last restaurant operator left after a long-running stoush with the National Capital Authority, which oversees the parliamentary triangle.

The Lobby, where Koto now stands, opened in 1968. Pork Barrel was a more casual kiosk which was hastily built later that year to ensure tourists could buy a pie and a milkshake.

Ballyhoo will be a far cry from that. Quade is keen to utilise local produce, calling the menu "contemporary Australian, but fun dining, not fine dining, there'll be no white tablecloths".

Work is expected to be completed early in 2024. First look tickets will be released for Ballyhoo in the coming weeks.



Group culinary director of The Lawns of The Lobby, Shaun Quade. Picture by Gary Ramage

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COURT Former Liberal staffer took to witness stand 'Defriended' Lehrmann became 'revolting predator'

Tim Piccione

BRUCE Lehrmann has been "publicly maligned as certainly the most prominent rapist" after allegations against him were broadcast, a court has heard.

"For many, the guilt of our client, Mr Lehrmann, is an article of faith," Matthew Richardson SC, representing Mr Lehrmann, said on Wednesday.

Mr Lehrmann is suing Network Ten and journalist Lisa Wilkinson over a February 2021 story on *The Project*, which revealed Brittany Higgins' claims of being raped at Parliament House two years earlier.

Mr Richardson told the Federal Court defamation trial his client was viewed as "probably one of the more revolting predators in the recent history of this country" following the program's airing.

For many, believing Mr Lehrmann's version of events "would be too painful, and perhaps given the stance they have taken, too humiliating".

The television report did not name the former Liberal staffer as the alleged perpetrator but Mr Lehrmann asserts he was identifiable.

"Mr Lehrmann has lost everything," Mr Richardson said, describing how the sexual assault allegation against his client had "utterly destroyed him".

The barrister said Mr Lehrmann "comes here for justice" to "seek vindication and

compensation" from his "most prominent accusers".

Mr Lehrmann took the witness stand on Wednesday, giving evidence about being "defriended" and kicked out of social and professional messaging groups after rape allegations against him were broadcast.

"I became severely isolated," the 28-year-old man said.

"I recall logging back into my social media accounts to shut them down because of the media furor that was erupting, and I observed not only being removed from group chats but people [were] blocking me."

Barrister Steven Whybrow SC asked Mr Lehrmann if people began treating him differently after the program.

"Drastically, yes," his client responded.

The court heard about several messaging groups the man had been a part of prior to allegations surfacing, including one called "the triumvirate" with two of Mr Lehrmann's closest friends.

"I was booted out of that group in the week after *The Project* airing," he said.

Earlier, Mr Richardson said several parts of the television segment in question identified Mr Lehrmann as the accused man.

His identity "must have been perfectly obvious to anyone who worked in [minister Linda Reynolds's] office or had regular dealings with it at that time", the court heard.

The barrister said the "rumour mill" was

enlivened after the program aired and that "a large number of people" were trying to figure out who the unnamed man was.

"We say, relentlessly, people from further and further outside the circle would have discovered it was my client," Mr Richardson said.

"We say it was a matter of plain inference he was identified by many people."

While the accused man was painted as "the most odious of predators", Ms Higgins, the court heard, was "canonised by this program" and held up "as the epitome of truthfulness and decency".

Mr Richardson said "not a scintilla of

doubt" was applied to Ms Higgins' allegations.

On Wednesday, the court heard Mr Lehrmann had settled legal action against the ABC, whom he was pursuing for damages over the broadcast of Ms Higgins' 2022 address to the National Press Club.

Mr Lehrmann has always denied raping Ms Higgins at Parliament House in 2019, when the pair worked for senator Reynolds.

No findings were made against him.

His trial was aborted last October because of juror misconduct, with the charge of sexual intercourse without consent levelled at him later discontinued.



Bruce Lehrmann arrives at the Federal Court on Wednesday. Picture AAP



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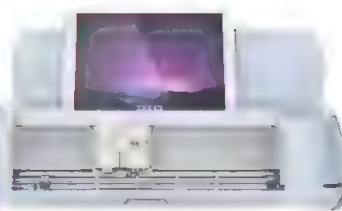
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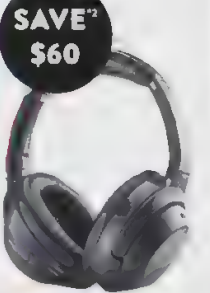


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A quarter of women attacked, abused

Adrian Rollins

MORE than one in five adults have been abused or physically assaulted by their partner, including a quarter of all women, and almost 3 million were abused in their childhood, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

In findings that show how widespread the problem of family and sexual violence is in the community, the ABS reported that 2.7 million women and 1.5 million men have experienced violence or abuse from their partner.

The rates of violence and abuse directed at women was

much greater than at men.

Seventeen per cent of women reported being physically attacked by their partner, three times the rate among men, while 23 per cent experienced emotional abuse (men, 14 per cent) and 16 per cent were subject to economic abuse (men, 7.8 per cent).

Of those women, who experienced violence or abuse at the hands of their partner, half endured both.

In a particularly disturbing finding in light of the significant financial strain currently being felt by many households, the ABS said that stress about money was

Women living in households with one or more cash flow problems were more likely to have experienced partner violence.

Australian Bureau of Statistics' Will Milne

associated with increased violence and abuse directed by a partner toward women.

Partner violence in households with cash flow problems more than five times greater than those without, while instances of emotional abuse were almost three times greater and economic

abuse more than four times greater.

"Women living in households with one or more cash flow problems were more likely to have experienced partner violence or abuse in the previous two years than those in households that didn't have cash flow prob-

lems," ABS head of crime and justice statistics Will Milne said.

The ABS' personal safety survey also found that 2.7 million adults had suffered abuse during their childhood, most commonly from someone they knew.

Almost 2 million were abused by an adult family member and nearly 380,000 were abused by an adult in an institutional setting.

The ABS survey found that almost 800,000 women who had experienced violence from a partner while living together were pregnant at some point in their relationship, including 42 per cent

who were attacked during their pregnancy and 17 per cent who experienced partner violence for the first time while pregnant. The results follow estimates that 28 women have been killed by a current or former male partner so far this year.

While rates of intimate partner homicide fluctuate from year to year, there has been a steady decline in the overall trend in the past decade.

Support is available for those who may be distressed. Phone Men's Referral Service 1300 776 491; 1800-RESPECT 1800 737 732.

Moderate expectations for lasting centre shift

JASPER LINDELL
ANALYSIS



THE best political coups are short, sharp and decisive. They leave opponents completely vanquished and mark the start of a new era. Get with it, or get lost.

The moderates within the Canberra Liberals certainly won a victory at a drawn-out annual party meeting on Tuesday night. But not a total victory.

Dumping the party's president, John Cziesla, an ally of the conservative Zed Seselja, in favour of an empty chair is the surest sign in years the branch has recognised its electoral fortunes are best forged in the centre.

The move is a sign, too, that Elizabeth Lee's more moderate vision has membership backing, putting the Opposition Leader on a surer footing heading into next year's election.

However, Deputy Opposition Leader Jeremy Hanson's support for the conservative management committee ticket puts him at odds with Ms Lee, who backed the moderates. Neither ticket won all spots.

A moderate vice-president, an empty chair and a conservative policy director walk into a meeting. It's not a joke; it's tricky political terrain.

The moderates might have clinched victory on Tuesday night. But their semi-defeated opponents may yet vow vengeance in response. It's a new dawn for the party but don't expect lasting peace.



Opposition Leader Elizabeth Lee, who is understood to have backed moderate candidates at a party AGM. Picture by Elesa Kurtz

Conservative loses to empty chair at Libs' AGM

From Page 1

Mr Cziesla had been president of the Canberra Liberals since 2017 and vice-president before that.

The Canberra Times understands Mr Cziesla faced questions about the loss of the Senate seat and why his ticket for the party's management committee was all male.

The key party position has been declared vacant, just shy of a year out from the 2024 territory election, and will be filled at another meeting soon.

It is understood an expected contender for president, moderate Nick

Tyrell, was unable to run for family reasons.

Megan Fox, the preferred moderate candidate, was elected vice-president over a former staffer of Mr Seselja, Joshua Osborne-Goldsbrough, but conservative Patrick Fazzone was picked for the policy chair position. Courtney May, who had been endorsed by the moderates, was elected finance director.

One source told The Canberra Times that even though there is no current president "it's going to be a new beginning", while another was concerned the vote was close and said in no

way was the Zed-era over for the Canberra Liberals.

It is not clear if Mr Cziesla will contest the vote.

Tuesday's meeting has exposed the division between Ms Lee and her deputy Jeremy Hanson, who backed opposing candidates for the party's leadership positions.

Key moderates, the Menzies Group, had encouraged its members to vote for candidates that represented "cultural change".

"We see in them the best hope for a break with the failed approaches which have led to six successive ACT election defeats, plus the loss last year of our ACT

Senate position. In our view, the need for party renewal and refreshment is urgent," an email to members said.

The group had campaigned to clear out the party's ruling committee in 2022, but failed when key party figures retained their spots. However, tighter ballot results had given some group members hope at the time the branch was slowly shifting towards the centre.

The group has long been attempting to drag the Canberra Liberals to the political middle-ground amid concerns the branch had become too conservative.

The Liberals have been

out of power in the ACT since 2001 and at the last federal election in May 2022, Mr Seselja lost the Senate seat to independent David Pocock.

The former ACT senator and conservative Coalition minister is currently contesting preselection for the NSW Liberal Senate vacancy.

The 46-year-old declared in a video his family was joining "the exodus out of Canberra into regional NSW".

Mr Seselja is understood not to have been at the Tuesday night Liberal meeting, but members of his family were present.

Kippax Fair to triple in size under owner's vision

Brittney Levinson

PLANS for a "completely new" Kippax Fair are ready to be submitted for approval, which would add hundreds of homes and two new supermarkets to the shopping centre.

But the expansion hinges on the ACT government selling an adjacent block of land to the centre's owners, they said.

Owners of the shopping centre, the Christodoulou family, have released new plans for the expansion which would include new supermarkets, speciality shops, more car parks and 300 new homes.

The plans are on display at Kippax Fair and online for the West Belconnen community to view and provide feedback.

In a statement, the owners said it was important to share the plans with local residents as they "prepare for the next phase of planning".

The plans include tripling the size of the centre, including the addition of Coles and Aldi grocery stores.

A residential component with 300 new homes, in-

cluding some affordable dwellings, is also in the plans alongside a new community hub, a skate park and dining precinct.

The new-look centre would also include 450 new underground car parks.

For their expansion, the owners need to purchase an adjoining piece of land, block 71, section 51 Holt.

"Kippax Fair is ready to get on with the new development as soon as the ACT government agrees to the sale of the adjacent land to us," the Kippax Fair owners said.

The ACT government is selling the two-hectare block via a two-stage competitive sales process which included expressions of interest in 2021. Stage two would be

a call for competitive bids, pending the outcome of site investigations including soil testing.

The Kippax Fair owners said the second stage had been delayed, so they "proactively" put forward a submission to the ACT government in a bid to secure the land and reduce further delays.

"We hope to have a fa-

vourable decision from government before the end of this year which would then enable us to move towards a formal development application," the owners said.

In a statement, the ACT government's Suburban Land Agency said the block is included in the indicative land release program for 2023-24.



The expansion would see 300 new homes added to the Kippax Group Centre. Picture supplied

Gallery announces new blockbuster

The National Gallery of Australia has announced its next winter blockbuster, and will bring more than 140 works by French post-Impressionist artist Paul Gauguin to Canberra in an Australian-first exhibition.

The gallery's director, Dr Nick Mitzevich, said the exhibition - *Gauguin's World: Tna Iho, Tna Ao* - was the result of five years' work and the first devoted to Gauguin's work in Australia. It will be at the gallery from June 29 to October 7, 2024. "It was a long-term project, the reason for that being that we were bringing 140 works from 65 private and public collections around the world," Dr Mitzevich said. The exhibition was curated by Henri Loyrette, a specialist in 19th-century French art and a former director of the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay in Paris. Tickets will go on sale in March.

A.C.T. POLITICS Examination of Davis allegation handling should point to future 'clear system'

Rattenbury wants 'clarity' from review

Jasper Lindell

GREENS leader Shane Rattenbury hopes a review of the allegations levelled at Johnathan Davis will provide greater clarity on what parties should do if they face similar issues in the future.

Mr Davis quit the Legislative Assembly and his party more than a week ago after the Greens launched an internal investigation into allegations the 31 year old

had sex with a minor and an inappropriate, but not illegal, relationship with a 17 year old.

An independent review will consider the handling of the allegations, with further detail on the terms of reference expected to be released when the Legislative Assembly sits next week.

The *Canberra Times* revealed Mr Davis had been indefinitely suspended by his party, and later that he

allegedly made sexual advances towards a junior Assembly staffer.

Mr Davis, through a lawyer, has declined to comment on any of the allegations put to him.

Mr Rattenbury said discussion on the terms of reference for the independent review was continuing between Labor, the Greens and the Liberals.

"I think it's important that we focus on how if these

matters should arise again in the future, that there is a strong system in place, a clear system for people to report," Mr Rattenbury said.

"Now, obviously, there are a range of views on how the Greens dealt with this. I remain confident that we took a really serious approach; we took the complaint seriously, we acted quickly. We used our best endeavours to work our way through this process."

Mr Rattenbury acknowledged commentary on the Greens' handling of the allegations and said the party was still reflecting on its decisions.

The Greens have been criticised by Labor and the Liberals for not alerting Chief Minister Andrew Barr earlier, and for the time it took the party to refer allegations to police.

"My primary reflection on it at the moment is we

acted swiftly, we acted with integrity, we took it seriously. We dealt with it as best as we could. We sought advice from external parties," Mr Rattenbury said.

"I think they're the appropriate steps that most people in the community would expect us to take."

Laura Nuttall, a former staffer of Mr Davis' who unsuccessfully ran for the party at the 2020 election, has nominated for the countback.

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FUTURE FORCE Up to 46% of Australian jobs could be automated by 2030

Experts call for \$1b AI initiative

Saffron Howden

AUSTRALIA should fund a \$1 billion national artificial intelligence initiative and prepare for the automation of up to 46 per cent of jobs by the end of the decade, a group of leading AI experts says. In the first report to present recommendations from Australia's AI thought leaders, researchers document the ways AI is already changing the way we work and play.

From vending machines in Newcastle and remote monitoring of sick people's vitals from Perth to pothole maintenance and fruit sorting in Queensland, generative AI is among us. But we should be doing more - and fast - Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) chief executive Kylie Walker said. "Our moment to seize the day for driving responsible AI has arrived here in Australia - and globally - and we need to make sure that we don't miss that train," she said.

Australia needed an additional 100,000 digital-skilled workers over the next year as the country prepared for between 25 and 46 per cent of existing jobs to be automated by 2030. "That's not too far away," Ms Walker said. "But currently around 7000 students are leaving university with the right skills to take on these digital jobs. So getting from 7000 to 100,000 is going to need a coordinated, national investment bringing universities and industries together through a national AI initiative."

AI research centres across the land

The Kingston AI Group, which includes 14 leading

Our moment to seize the day for driving responsible AI has arrived.

Kylie Walker, ATSE chief executive

AI professors from eight universities, has called for a \$1 billion investment in research centres across the country in a new report released on Thursday, November 23. Entitled *Responsible AI: Your questions answered*, the report addresses the challenges and opportunities at home.

Australia could lead the way in responsible AI, Australian Institute for Machine Learning director Professor Simon Lucey said. "Australian needs to complexify its economy and a real silver bullet for this is, potentially, AI," he said. "Responsible AI is some-

thing that Australia could really own, that we could really kind of lean into."

Professor Lucey said Australia needed "a seat at the table" to decide its AI future. "If we sit back and wait for AI to be invented in other countries and play it safe - which we tend to with technologies in Australia - our values, our ideas about what the type of AI future that we want to see - won't come to fruition," he said.

Microsoft's announcement of a \$5 billion investment in AI and cloud computing did not go far enough. "In terms of computing, in terms of the

data centres, we're already lacking in Australia in comparison to international competition, ATSE's Ms Walker said. "So it's going to need a much larger push from all stakeholders in terms of investment." She said in the past two decades just 752 AI projects had been funded in Australia, totaling about \$323 million across various research centres. But last year alone, the US allocated \$1.7 billion outside defence programs.

AI is already here

Stela Solar, the director of the National AI Centre at the CSIRO, said artificial intelligence had already made its way into our daily lives.

"One of the most familiar ones is our mobile phones. A lot of you know that unlocking your phone - whether it be with facial recognition, thumbprint, voice - all of

that is being powered by AI technologies," she said.

Virtual assistants like Siri, Google and Alexa were also powered by AI technologies. "They can understand and find the information we need. And also navigation - a lot of us as we're driving, as we're walking, getting to the places we want to get to, AI is helping us get there every day," Ms Solar said.

AI is the steam engine of today and will fundamentally change how we live, work, play and care, ATSE chief executive Kylie Walker said. And Australians needed the literacy and understanding to face the coming changes. "We need to help people understand not just the fundamentals of how it works, but how to interact with it, embrace it, and meet it with an analytical mindset. We also need a culture of research and risk-taking."

\$600m cyber strategy to shield nation from attacks

ALMOST \$600 million is being put towards erecting six "cyber shields" around Australian infrastructure and businesses to protect them from attacks and to secure networks.

Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil on Wednesday unveiled the seven-year cyber strategy. The layers to protect against cyber attacks include using safe technology, empowering businesses and individuals, protecting critical infrastructure, working with partners in the region and ensuring Australia maintains a sovereign capability.

Combined, they will make it harder for actors to target critical infrastructure and allow the government to bounce back faster when they do slip through.

"We have reason to believe that things are going to get worse and that we are going to face increasing risk," Ms O'Neil said, launching the policy in Sydney. "We can't have a situation where we have data flying around the country, where we have critical infrastructure starting to fail."

Of the funding, \$290 million will go towards supporting small and medium businesses fight cybercrime, while \$144 million will help strengthen critical infrastructure and \$130 million will boost regional co-operation and capabilities. There will also be \$5 million to create customer standards for smart devices and software to protect consumers.

More than \$26 million will be used to set up cyber assistance teams in the Pacific, while a further \$17 million will build resistance and help identify vulnerabilities in the region.



Experts are calling for Australia to lead the way in responsible AI. Picture Shutterstock

Rise in online hate speech underscores need for law reform

SOCIAL media platforms have been accused of not taking their responsibility seriously to shield users from hate speech and abuse online.

Changes to online safety laws are needed following a surge in anti-Semitic and Islamophobic abuse online, Communications Minister Michelle Rowland says.

"There is a gap in the regulatory framework, it's one that a number of jurisdictions are grappling with and it's one I look forward to taking measures on as part

of the basic online safety expectations," she said in an address to the National Press Club on Wednesday.

"That is why we are addressing this gap in the framework by updating the expectations to include what the platforms are doing in relation to their own policies about minimising the impact of hate speech."

Ms Rowland said there was a role for governments to keep people safe online but the main responsibility rested with the platforms.

"It is a virtuous cycle for

platforms to build into their own systems the ability to keep users safe," she said.

Under changes proposed by the minister, internet platforms would have to consider the best interests of children.

Platforms would have to crack down on unlawful material created through artificial intelligence, lay out steps to detect hate speech and measures to ensure children don't access inappropriate material online.

"This is a multi-faceted problem that regulators

around the world are grappling with," Ms Rowland said.

"We're not going to be a government who says that big tech is too big and we can't address this power imbalance in the interest of Australian consumers."

A review of online safety laws, to be headed up by former consumer watchdog deputy chair Delia Rickard, will begin public consultations in early 2024. It will focus on the eSafety Commissioner's complaint system, how laws address harm online and gaps in laws.



Michelle Rowland says there's deep concern about the way hateful language spreads online. Picture AAP

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CANBERRA LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

Giant's story has modern resonances

NOBODY knows exactly how tall Maria "Mariedl" Fassnauer was.

The reported height of the Tyrolean giantess Fassnauer (1879-1917) seemed to vary depending on where she was performing.

"In Berlin she was two metres 36 centimetres; in London she was two metres 40 centimetres," Austrian-Australian actor Maxi Blaha said.

"Nobody really knows."

What's certain, though, is that by the time she was 15, Fassnauer, the oldest of six children born to a farming family, was well over two metres tall. Her family sent her away to be a servant when she was 16 but she was soon being exhibited in sideshows and later took charge of her own career, acquiring a manager.

Billed as Mariedl The Tyrolean Giantess, she became wealthy and famous.

Blaha is telling Fassnauer's story in Penny Black's play *Mariedl, Selfies with a Giantess*, which is having its English-language premiere at The Street Theatre.

A friend of Blaha, Sophie Reyer, mentioned Fassnauer to her and the actor's curiosity was piqued. This play was the result.

Blaha will be costumed and positioned to play Fassnauer in a modern-day equivalent to the exhibitions Fassnauer gave of herself.

"People can stare at me and ask me questions on my cell phone," Blaha said.

"I've given Mariedl Instagram and TikTok accounts - people can follow her."

Accompanying Blaha is Swiss harpist and composer Ursula Fatton, whose score echoes the moods of the story. Fatton's role is like that of Mariedl's sister Rosa, who accompanied her on her travels.

Blaha said Fassnauer's story raised interesting questions - what is a "freak"? what is "normal"? - and also resonated in an era of celebrity culture and an online world where people exploited themselves and their bodies in a quest for notoriety and money.

Fassnauer's height was caused by acromegaly, a rare condition in which a tumour next to the pituitary gland results in an

excess of growth hormone being produced. While many people with physical abnormalities were exploited in sideshows, Fassnauer was able to take control and work in less tawdry venues.

"She filled the London Hippodrome," Blaha said.

"She met the Queen a couple of times."

It was also in London that Clive Darril, an Australian giant from Wagga Wagga, made a

public proposal of marriage in 1907, having followed her around Europe. "He wanted to found a dynasty of giants," Blaha said.

Fassnauer turned him down.

While Fassnauer's career was lucrative, it came at a personal cost for the shy, homesick woman.

She exhibited herself for hours on end - in theatres, spiegelentens and panopticons, at the Brussels World Fair and other places -



A doctored picture with the heads of Maxi Blaha, left and Ursula Fatton replacing those of the giantess and her sister. Picture supplied



Maxi Blaha. Picture by Georg Buxhofer

sold merchandise, posed for photographs and endorsed products such as OXO.

People even paid to watch her eat.

"She often got very sad - it was very strenuous," Blaha said.

Fassnauer spent a lot of time praying in churches and used her money to help her family, paying off the farm, as well as making charitable donations.

Plagued by ill health, Fassnauer returned home a few years before she died at the age of 36.

She was buried in a huge coffin she had commissioned, having extracted a promise from her family that her body would not be sold to science.

Blaha is no stranger to Canberra, having performed *Soul of Fire* and *Beloved Muse*, other plays about notable women, at The Street Theatre.

Next year, she will take *Mariedl, Selfies with a Giantess* on tour around Europe.

Fassnauer's story will be told to a new generation, more than a century after her death, in the continent where she became famous.

***Mariedl, Selfies with a Giantess* is on at The Street Theatre on Saturday, November 25 at 7.30pm and Sunday, November 26, 2023 at 4pm. See: thestreet.org.au**

New 50 cent design celebrates Queen over seven-decade reign

IT'S a coin that shows Queen Elizabeth II ageing gracefully through the ages, a lifetime captured across a width of metal measuring just over three centimetres. The coin has been released by the Royal Australian Mint to celebrate the late monarch's seven decades of service. The 50 cent coin is being released in both fine silver proof and uncirculated finishes. It goes on sale from 8.30am today. The new design shows the six portraits or "effigies" of the queen that appeared on Australian coins, from 1953 to 2023. Royal Australian Mint CEO Leigh Gordon said the coin was a study of graceful ageing by one of the era's most recognisable female figureheads. "Historically, coins bear witness to a

monarch's reign with their royal effigies appearing on the obverse," he said. "In keeping with that tradition, this exceptional coin showcases the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Effigy by Jody Clark on the obverse. "The Mint's trademark storytelling is strongly represented on the coin's reverse, which features a central design depicting the first six effigies, fanned above the Queen's royal cypher." The coin was created in-house by the Mint's design team. The central image is framed with lily of the valley, one of the Queen's favourite flowers and golden wattle, Australia's national floral emblem. The portraits on the coin also reflect the history of coins in Australia.

Mary Gillick designed the first portrait of Her Majesty, which appeared on pre-decimal coinage from 1953 to 1965. On Australian decimal coinage, the first portrait of Queen Elizabeth II was designed by Arnold Machin in 1964 for the British Royal Mint. It was released in Australia on February 14, 1966 which preceded its first use on British coins in 1968. The most recent effigy, designed by Jody Clark, is the sixth coin portrait to have been created during the Queen's reign. It appeared on Australian coins from 1999 until the Queen's death on September 8 last year. With limited mintage, the coin is expected to be popular with collectors.



The new 50 cent coin goes on sale today. Picture supplied

WORLD

NEW HOPE Fighting to be paused and hostages released under Gaza deal

Israeli cabinet approves ceasefire

Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S cabinet has approved a temporary ceasefire with the Hamas militant group that is expected to bring the first halt in fighting in a devastating six-week war and win freedom for dozens of hostages held captive in the Gaza Strip.

The deal calls for a four-day ceasefire, during which Israel will halt its military offensive in Gaza while Hamas frees "at least" 50 of the roughly 240 hostages it and other militants are holding, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said. The first hostages to be released will be women and children.

"The government of Israel is committed to bringing all of the hostages home. Tonight, the government approved the outline for the first stage of achieving this goal," Netanyahu said in a statement.

Media reports ahead of the vote said Israel would free some 150 Palestinian prisoners as part of the deal, but the Israeli statement made no mention of a prisoner release. It was not clear when the truce, brokered by the US and Qatar, would go into effect.

Ahead of the early morning vote, Netanyahu said the war against Hamas would resume after the truce expires. "We are at war, and we will continue the war," he said. "We will continue until we achieve all our goals."

Despite his tough words, the government statement said the truce would be extended an extra day for every additional 10 hostages that are released by Hamas. A longer-term lull could lead to pressure, both international and domestic, for Israel to end its war without achieving its goal of destroying the military capabilities

of Hamas.

The war erupted on October 7 when several thousand Hamas militants burst across the border into Israel, killing at least 1200 people and taking hundreds hostage. Most of the dead were civilians, while the hostages include small children, women and also the elderly.

Israel have responded with weeks of blistering airstrikes on Gaza, followed by a ground invasion that began over three weeks ago. More than 11,000 Palestinians have been killed during the Israeli offensive, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory. It does not differentiate between civilians and militants, though Israel says thousands of Hamas militants have been killed.

The invasion has caused vast destruction in north-

ern Gaza, including the metropolis of Gaza City, displaced an estimated 1.7 million people and caused a humanitarian crisis with shortages of food, medicines, fuel and other key supplies throughout the territory.

Israel has rejected growing international criticism and vowed to press ahead until it destroys Hamas' military and governing capabilities and all hostages are freed. Hamas, an Islamic militant group sworn to Israel's destruction, has ruled Gaza since ousting the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority in 2007.

Under Wednesday's deal, Hamas is to release roughly 12 hostages each day. In addition to the possible release of Palestinian prisoners, Israel is expected to allow additional quantities of

humanitarian supplies and fuel into Gaza, Israeli media reported ahead of the vote. Wednesday's government statement did not mention aid shipments.

While the statement did not say when the truce would begin, Israeli media reports said the hostages could begin to be released as soon as Thursday.

The return of any hostages could lift spirits in Israel, where the plight of the captives has gripped the country's attention. Airwaves are filled with interviews with families of the hostages, who include babies and toddlers, women and children and people in their 80s with health issues.

The families have become a powerful force in Israel - staging mass demonstrations and marches pressuring the government to bring home their loved ones. They

have made a central Tel Aviv square their headquarters, where evocative displays like a long white table with seats for all 240 hostages are meant to keep their plight in the public eye.

But the structure of the deal could weaken Israel from various directions. Any lull would give Hamas and its shadowy leader, Yehya Sinwar, a chance to regroup after suffering heavy losses during the fighting, especially if Hamas drags things out with additional hostage releases.

A ceasefire could also add to the already growing international pressure on Israel to halt its offensive as the full extent of damage in Gaza becomes apparent. Even the US, Israel's chief backer, has expressed concerns about the heavy toll the war is taking on Gaza's civilian population.

North Korea spy satellite claims spark unease, fear

Tokyo

NORTH Korea has successfully placed its first spy satellite into orbit, its space agency says, defying international condemnation from the United States and its allies.

Officials in South Korea and Japan, which first reported the launch, said they could not immediately verify whether a satellite was placed in orbit. North Korea had earlier notified Japan that it planned to send up a satellite, after two failed attempts to launch what it called spy satellites earlier this year. Citing the North's National Aerospace Technology Administration, state news agency KCNA said the satellite was launched from the Sohae satellite launch facility.

The space agency said it planned to send up multiple spy satellites to continue securing surveillance capabilities over South Korea and other regions of interest to North Korea's armed forces.

Tuesday's launch would be the first since North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met Vladimir Putin at Russia's modern space facility in September for a summit where the Russian President promised to help North Korea build satellites.

South Korean officials have said the latest launch attempt likely incorporated technical assistance from Russia as part of a growing partnership in which North Korea has sent millions of artillery shells to Russia. Moscow and North Korea have denied such arms deals but are publicly promising deeper co-operation.

The launch drew condemnation from Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Hamas is believed to be holding more than 200 hostages, taken when its fighters surged into Israel. Picture AP



World's largest crypto exchange fined \$6b, CEO pleads guilty

Washington

THE US government has dealt a massive blow to Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, after it agreed to pay a roughly \$US4 billion (\$6 billion) settlement as its founder and CEO Changpeng Zhao pleaded guilty to a felony related to his failure to prevent money laundering on the platform.

Zhao has stepped down as the company's chief executive and Binance admitted to violations of the Bank Secrecy Act and apparent viola-

Using new technology to break the law does not make you a disruptor, it makes you a criminal.

US Attorney-General Merrick Garland

tions of sanctions programs, including its failure to implement reporting programs for suspicious transactions.

"Using new technology to break the law does not make you a disruptor, it makes you a criminal," said US Attorney-General Mer-

rick Garland, who called the settlement one of the largest corporate penalties in the nation's history.

As part of the settlement agreement, the US Treasury said Binance would be subject to five years of monitoring and "significant

compliance undertakings, including to ensure Binance's complete exit from the United States". Binance is a Cayman Islands limited liability company.

Zhao was perhaps best known as the chief rival to Sam Bankman-Fried, the 31-year-old founder of the FTX, which was the second-largest crypto exchange before it collapsed last November. Bankman-Fried was convicted earlier this month of fraud for stealing at least \$US10 billion from customers and investors. Zhao,

meanwhile, pleaded guilty in a federal court in Seattle on Tuesday to one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money-laundering program.

Binance wrote in a statement that it made "misguided decisions" as it quickly grew to become the world's biggest crypto exchange, and said the settlement acknowledged its "responsibility for historical, criminal compliance violations".

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Binance processed transactions by illicit

actors, "supporting activities from child sexual abuse, to illegal narcotics, to terrorism, across more than 100,000 transactions". Binance did not file a single suspicious activity report on those transactions, Yellen said, and the company allowed over 1.5 million virtual currency trades that violated US sanctions - including ones involving Hamas' al-Qassam Brigades, al-Qaeda and other criminals.

The judge set Zhao's sentencing down for February 23.

Court rules Khan's jail trial illegal: lawyer

Islamabad

A PAKISTANI court has ruled that the closed-door prison trial of former prime minister Imran Khan on charges of revealing state secrets is illegal, his lawyer says.

The ruling by the Islamabad High Court was made in response to a petition filed by Khan, demanding an open trial, lawyer Naeem Haider Panjutha said.

It was unclear whether the government would appeal, or if future open court proceedings would take place at the same prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi or somewhere else. Authorities have insisted Khan was being tried at Adiyala Prison because of threats to his life.

The court's decision came about a month after Khan was indicted for allegedly revealing a secret document. Legal experts say the charges he faces carry a possible death sentence in the event of a conviction.

Khan's close aide, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who was deputy in his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, is a co-defendant in the case. Both men have denied

the charges.

The case is related to Khan's comments about and waving of a confidential diplomatic letter at a rally after his ouster in a no-confidence vote in parliament in 2022.

He and Qureshi are accused of communicating information in the classified letter to unauthorised people for political gain.

The document - dubbed Cipher - has not been made

public by either the government or Khan's lawyers but was apparently diplomatic correspondence between the Pakistani ambassador to Washington and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

in Islamabad.

Khan claimed the document was proof that his ouster was a US conspiracy, allegedly executed by the military and his political opponents, including his

successor Shehbaz Sharif. Washington, Pakistan's military and Sharif have denied the claim.

Khan has not appeared in public since August, when he was jailed for three years for corruption. The Islamabad High Court subsequently suspended that sentence but he remained in custody due to his arrest in the Cipher case.

Wednesday's development came ahead of parliamentary elections which are to be held on February 8.

According to analysts, Khan's party still could win the most seats, but he is not eligible to run for parliament due to his conviction in the graft case.

A court in Islamabad has also briefly heard an appeal from Khan's main political rival, Nawaz Sharif, against his 2018 conviction in a graft case.

Sharif, who served as prime minister three times, returned to Pakistan in October, ending four years of self-imposed exile in London mainly to lead his Pakistan Muslim League party in the parliamentary elections.



A jail trial of Imran Khan on charges of leaking state secrets has reportedly been ruled illegal. Picture AP

Drilling resumes to reach trapped Indian tunnel workers

Silkyara

THE first images have emerged of 41 men trapped for more than a week in a highway tunnel in the Indian Himalayas, showing them standing in the confined space and communicating with rescue workers as drilling resumed to pull them to safety.

The men have been stuck in the 4.5km tunnel in Uttarakhand state since it caved in early on November 12 but are safe, authorities say, with access to light, oxygen, food, water and medicines.



Rescue teams are working to free 41 road workers trapped after a tunnel collapse. Picture EPA

They have not said what caused the tunnel to collapse but the region is prone

to landslides, earthquakes and floods.

Efforts to free the 41 men

have been slowed by snags in drilling through the debris in the mountainous terrain.

"We might be able to get a breakthrough in the next 30 to 40 hours," Mahmood Ahmed, managing director of the state-run National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL), which is building the tunnel, told reporters.

"There can be difficulties as well but we are prepared for it," he said after the drilling resumed.

A 30-second video provided by authorities showed

about a dozen of the trapped men standing in a semi-circle in front of the camera, wearing helmets.

A rescue worker could be heard telling the men to present themselves before the camera one by one, to confirm their identities on the walkie-talkie gear that had been sent in.

The video was shot through a medical endoscopy camera that was pushed through a second, wider pipeline drilled through the debris on Monday, authorities said.

Drilling was suspended on Friday after a machine snag and fears of a fresh collapse but rescuers had resumed drilling horizontally through a 60-metre pile of debris to push through a pipe large enough for the trapped men to crawl out, a government statement said.

Work on five other plans to pull out the workers, including drilling vertically from the top of the mountain, was also in progress, the statement said. One machine for vertical rescue had arrived and was being installed.

Hawaii plane crash raises reef fears

Honolulu

A LARGE US Navy plane remains in a Hawaii bay, after it overshot a runway and landed in the water, raising concern about environmental damage and questions over how the military will remove the aircraft.

All nine people aboard the P-8A were uninjured when the plane, flying in rainy weather, overshot the runway on Monday at a Marine Corps base in Kaneohe Bay, outside Honolulu.

Crews set up a temporary floating barrier to protect

the environment, and an investigation was under way, a navy spokesman said on Wednesday.

Residents near the bay were eager to hear plans for the massive plane's removal and were worried about possible damage to the coral reef in the area, along with harms from fuel and other chemicals.

The plane landed 2.4 kilometres from an ancient Hawaiian fishpond, said Ili'i Kawelo, executive director of Paepae o He'eia, the organisation that cares

for the pond. "The plane in the water is concerning," she said. "It's directly upwind from our fishpond."

Kawelo said she understood removing the plane was a big undertaking but was hopeful the military would at least defuel it "in a timely fashion - like today".

Navy officials didn't immediately answer questions about extraction plans, environmental concerns and how the plane ended up in the water.

The area where the plane landed near the base isn't

accessible to the public, but Kawelo said she was familiar with the broader reef that extends in the bay, abundant in marine life.

"I'm hoping that it landed on a sandy patch that didn't house any coral," she said. "But our coral reefs are absolutely critical and important for the ecosystem, they are the foundation for life in the ocean."

The state Department of Health, which responds to potential fuel spills, released a statement saying that no fuel had been released so far.

US pledges \$3.5b fund for community pollution fixes

Washington

THE Biden administration is making \$US2 billion (\$3.5 billion) available to community groups, states and tribes to clean up pollution and develop clean energy in disadvantaged communities in what officials boasted as the largest-ever investment in environmental justice.

Environmental Protection Agency administrator Michael Regan called the grant program unprecedented and said it "has the promise to turn disadvantaged and

overburdened areas into healthy, resilient and thriving communities for current and future generations".

The program, funded by the sweeping climate law signed last year by President Joe Biden, is aimed at poor and minority communities "that have long been overlooked and forgotten", Regan said. About 150 community-driven projects are expected to win grants ranging from \$US10 million to \$US20 million each, along with smaller projects.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Late night coup could stir Liberal hopes

THE Tuesday night coup that ended decades of right-wing dominance of the ACT Liberals seems an essential step for the party to have any hope of a return to government.

It also opens the door to the possibility of regaining the Senate seat Zed Seselja lost to David Pocock in 2023.

The intense level of frustration felt by party moderates was demonstrated by the dumping of former branch president - and long-time Zed Seselja ally - John Czesla in favour of an empty chair.

While the chair only won by 123 votes to 117, as votes of no confidence go, losing when you are running unopposed is hard to top.

The surviving moderates within the ACT Liberals have effectively pulled off a quiet revolution in a bid to return the party to relevance in a polity that is noted for progressive values on same-sex marriage, drug law reform, Indigenous recognition and the Voice, and voluntary assisted dying.

Zed Seselja and his conservative backers, who successfully ousted former ACT chief minister turned senator Gary Humphries a decade ago, were diametrically opposed to the majority of Canberra voters on these issues.

Elizabeth Lee, the current party leader, is

The Canberra Times

TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY
AND THROUGH IT THE NATION

ACT Liberals have settled for the 'spoils of defeat'.

much closer to the centre and, as such, remains a better choice to lead the party to the next poll. Her recent advocacy for the Voice has shown she can read the room.

From Ms Lee's perspective the "new beginning" could not have come at a better time.

While the presidency of the branch won't be decided for some time all other key positions have been filled, with the moderates enjoying an ascendancy.

Megan Fox, a moderate, defeated former

Zed Seselja staffer Joshua Osbourne-Goldsborough to become branch vice president.

Courtenay May, who had been endorsed by the moderates, is the new finance director who will need to come up with the ways and means needed for the 2024 campaign.

That said, the position of policy chair went to a conservative, Patrick Fazonne.

One cause for concern is that Ms Lee's deputy, Jeremy Hanson, backed opposing candidates to those supported by his party leader.

If the Liberals are to be in with a chance in 2024 then unity is essential. Conventional political wisdom might suggest that there is a real opportunity for the party, given that if Labor and the Greens are re-elected they will have been in office in one form or another for 27 years. But that record in itself shows how

resistant to conservative politics ACT voters have become.

To have any hope, the party would need to advocate policies that, while necessarily more conservative than those of the Barr-Ratzenbury government, respect territory rights and don't alienate Canberra voters.

Ms Lee will argue the government has been in office for too long and has become complacent due to its success.

She and her team will argue this is reflected in failures of leadership and governance in health, education, housing, planning and development, public transport and law and order.

But the willingness of the local Liberals to settle for the spoils of defeat for decades has played a big part in bringing this about.

The greatest threat to both a reinvigorated Liberal branch and to the government in 2024 is the possibility voters will say "a pox on both your houses" and seek out independents in the mould of David Pocock.

That said, such an outcome may be a win for Canberra residents, even if Labor and the Greens held onto government.

Independents who can hold the major parties to account on the floor of the Assembly could provide much needed accountability to a government used to getting its own way.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Increased emissions are fuelling a climate change catastrophe

THE news is very bad. Your editorial "Climate change is an existential threat" (November 22) clearly explains the impending climate crisis.

The current UN's report is that on the present trajectory the climate will become irreversibly threatening to all living things by the century's end.

Promises to reduce emissions are easily made, yet the UN report reveals that global emissions are actually increasing: greenhouse gases actually rose by 1.2 per cent from 2021 to 2022.

What is going on? That we are busy making carbon dioxide intensive wars may be one factor.

Another article also gives us a clue. Leaders may be unable to understand what is happening. The report ("Ex-UK PM 'bambooed' by COVID science") reveals Boris Johnson, whose decisions caused so many COVID-related deaths in Britain, struggled to understand the simple graphs the scientists were showing him.

We have a leadership problem.

Harry Davis, Campbell

food-producing land. The latter would transform the world's largest natural carbon capture and storage system and a major source of life-giving oxygen into a huge source of carbon dioxide, the main driver of destructive global heating.

Dr Douglas Mackenzie, Deakin

The gates of hell

According to the pre-COP28 UN Environment Program report and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres the world is headed to a "hellish future" of plus 3 degrees global warming this century.

Implementing future policies (a big if) would shave just 0.1 degrees off this projection. There is no exaggeration here. Just think of the weather and impacts being experienced now when plus 1.5 degrees has not been permanently breached.

What will the climate be like in the next century when children born today will still be alive? But where is the government action and public and media outcry. Have we lost all perspective?

Roderick Holesgrove, Crace

Migration must be cut

I am glad Don Owers points out the absurdity of our government inviting some 630,000 people as migrants to Australia, building fewer new houses than have been destroyed by natural calamities and then claiming to be doing something about the shortage of homes. (Letters, November 22).

Owers suggests that "regions of Australia" will be the first to become uninhabitable due to climate change.

However, scientists agree that it is the cities which are most endangered. Western Sydney was already one of the hottest urban areas on earth during a previous spell of El Nino.

Ignoring the urban heat island effect in



Climate change has already led to longer, and more intense, bushfire seasons in much of Australia. Picture by Graham Tidy

Canberra enormous buildings are permitted to cover plots without vegetation to mitigate the heat they produce.

If this continues there is the likelihood parts of our so-called Bush Capital will eventually become uninhabitable, again due to the lack of foresight of government.

Professor B M Bodart-Bailey,
Narrabundah

Remembering JFK

Sixty years ago, on November 22, 1963, this young boy awoke to the news that President Kennedy had been killed by an assassin's bullet in Dallas.

The charismatic Kennedy exuded confidence and competence. He argued for

compassion and caring. He gave America a vision for the 1960s culminating in the moon landing in July 1969 which he never saw.

As a leader, some of his contemporaries were perhaps equal to him. People such as Churchill, De Gaulle, Martin Luther King jnr, Gandhi, Thatcher, Mandela, and Mother Teresa for example.

For us in Australia, Kennedy kindled the joy of seeing leadership of the US at the time of its dominance in the push for freedom and advancement for all mankind.

He was the antithesis of the spectacle being played out now with the uninspiring Biden at the helm lining up against the bumptious Trump, both seeking a second term in the Oval Office.

Climate action essential

Congratulations on your editorial "Climate change is an existential threat" (November 22), and particularly for your conclusion "the real issue is the cost of doing nothing. That is a bill the world cannot afford to pay".

The recent United Nations' Emissions Gap report concludes that on present trends, the world will warm by up to 2.9 degrees this century unless advanced economies transition away from fossil fuels.

Failure to do this could, as you note, result in "runaway melting of the polar icecaps and the complete loss of the Amazon rainforest". The former will cause dramatic rises in sea level, inundation of heavily populated,

POPE'S VIEW

THE HOME FRONT...



Sixty years ago, on November 22, 1963, this young boy awoke to the news President Kennedy had been killed.

Ian Morison, Forrest

Oh, for two Kennedy-like candidates, one from each party.

Ian Morison, Forrest

Over the Liberals

I am very weary of the constant antagonism of the so-called Liberal Party every time they are in opposition.

I used to be a rusted-on Liberal voter, but from the time that Tony Abbott (the mad monk) adopted a policy of just opposing everything to the present day of Peter Dutton having a negative attitude towards all pursuit of wisdom and justice, without any vision for the future, I find that the policies of the Liberal Party do not attract me at all.

They are in my view unelectable in their present orientation.

Stewart Bath, Isabella Plains

Help our lonely koels

I'm shocked, stunned actually, at the complete lack of compassion the Barr government and their Green compatriots have for a serious issue that all in Canberra face.

Day and night we hear the pleadings for empathy from a minority group that is unable to properly articulate their needs, but yet they stumble on with no one to help them.

I for one will not tolerate this any longer. I propose to start a GoFundMe site to raise funds to assist these helpless souls.

I'm referring to a treasured avian icon of the Australian bush, the eastern koel, whose cries, day and night, to find a mate rip at the hearts of all Canberrans.

I propose to create a bionic female koel to be that companion the male so desperately needs. Only then will the endless cries for help will cease.

Neil Taylor, Farrer

A thankless job

In a world where gratitude for military service is often seen as a given, Australia's defence force faces a stark contrast to the appreciation its counterparts receive, particularly in the United States.

The ADF is often overlooked and, in some instances, even despised by the public it serves. Indifference and occasional disdain characterise the public's attitude towards defence personnel.

The lack of appreciation hits a raw nerve, as illustrated by personal encounters when I was selling badges on Remembrance Day. I was confronted with accusations of condoning heinous actions abroad.

During my deployment on an international engagement exercise with the US Army in California in just two hours at a local shopping centre, wearing the Australian uniform, I received more expressions of gratitude than in my eight years of service.

There's a compelling case to be made that the lack of public recognition in Australia contributes to the current retention and suicide crisis within defence circles.

The Australian public can play a pivotal role in reshaping the narrative and ensuring that those who serve feel valued, acknowledged, and supported.

Aaron Jago, Canberra

HAVE YOUR SAY

Letters to the Editor should be kept to 250 or fewer words. To the Point letters should not exceed 50 words. Reference to *The Canberra Times* reports should include date and page number. Provide a phone number and address (only your suburb will be published). Email letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au with your letter in the message field.

Responsibility for election comment is taken by John-Paul Moloney of 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra. Published by Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Ltd.

CRICKET ON REPEAT

Congratulations Australia. I enjoyed the cricket but can we have a few less repeat dismissals shown?

Greg Cornwell, Yarralumla

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

It is good to hear the babies have been transferred to Cairo. This time they are not being pursued by King Herod but by the IDF.

Marie Oakes, Turner

TIME TO MOVE ON

It's time Zed Seselj realised that no one's interested in his politics. It's time for him to get a real job.

Warren Austin, Flynn

ISRAEL CONDEMNED

In its current military operations in Gaza and the West Bank Israeli is conducting war with no regard for the rules of civilised behaviour. People committed to human decency all over the world must condemn Israel's actions or also stand condemned for failing to do so.

Rajend Naidu, Glenfield, NSW

GREED IS BAD

The Optus debacle is a classic case study in neoliberalism. A board and the CEO who engaged in creating mega profits at the cost of services and jobs, are bound to be caught out.

Jane Timbrell, Reid

WHO'S TO BLAME?

Did anyone see a "diver in the water" flag flying from the Australian ship? I didn't. This is the internationally recognised way of alerting all vessels in the area.

George Beaton, Greenway

HOSTAGES ALL

According to the Israeli government Hamas had at least one hostage at the Al-Shifa hospital. But surely all the patients, unable to move, as well as the doctors morally bound to stay and try to help them, were equally hostages.

Richard Manderson, Narrabundah

PM'S TRAVEL DEFENDED

It is tiresome to read continual complaints by Alex Wallensky (Letters, November 22) and others about the PM's overseas trips. Mr Albanese needs to be at these meetings for the nation's interests. Get real and get over it. No one remembers you having a shot at Scott Morrison's travel, probably because you didn't.

James Mahoney, McKellar

BURKE REFERENCE TIMELY

Bill Deane's reference to Edmund Burke in his defence of Zed Seselj (Letters, November 22) is apposite. In 1780 Burke was shoehorned, by his faction, into a safe seat in Yorkshire after being turfed out by the electors in his former seat of Bristol. Zed is indeed seeking to follow his example.

Stephen Holt, Macquarie

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

On Tuesday I heard my first Christmas song. It's still November. Can we ban all decorations and music until a week before Christmas? Let's rein it in and restore some sanity to the annual festival of consumerism and gluttony.

Ian Jannaway, Monash

JUST SAY SORRY XI

Why is it so difficult for China to say "sorry" or "we apologise". Do they never do anything wrong or unprofessional? A bit of humility by President Xi Jinping would have gone a long way.

Les Bienkiewicz, Kensington, NSW

Innocent until guilty

I am with you Peter Woodhouse (Letters, November 16), regarding how the allegations against Johnathan Davis have been handled.

It brought back to me the Brittany Higgins and Bruce Lehrmann case.

Issues involving the sex lives of public figures will always get a run in the media, which can impact upon the right to a fair trial.

Jeff Hart, Kingston

Save our trees

Ken Menz (Letters, November 19) we have that same "trees dying of thirst" problem.

A few of us carry a dozen milk containers of water in our cars to give the thirsty ones a drink.

We leave a few containers inscribed with "revive a tree" at the dog park tap.

I think we'll be busy this summer.

Ronald Elliott, Sandringham, Vic

Excessive and arbitrary

The government's public protection action on indefinite detention, with opposition harassment, is an overreaction.

The same conditions apply to all released detainees and the same penal provisions for a range of characters is excessive and arbitrary.

Why we cannot handle several paedophiles in our community is mystifying.

The detainees accused of murder surely can be extradited; We have an extradition treaty with Malaysia.

Malaysia dropped their mandatory death penalty in July 2023.

I thought that in Australia that a person is free after completing their jail sentence.

Geoff Henkel, Farrer

Akubra

MADE BY AUSTRALIA.

Andrew and Nicola Forrest are honoured
to welcome Akubra to the Tattarang family.

 Tattarang



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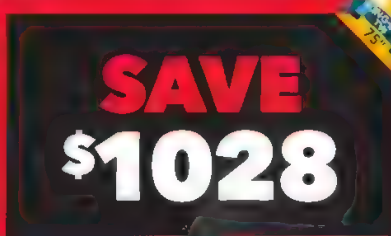
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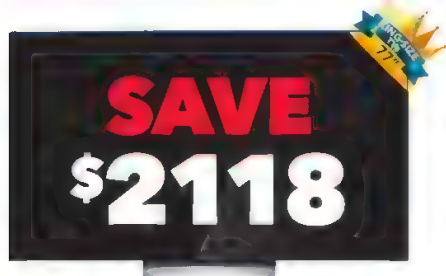
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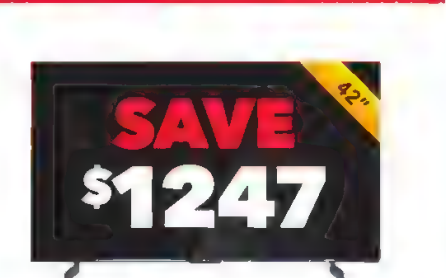


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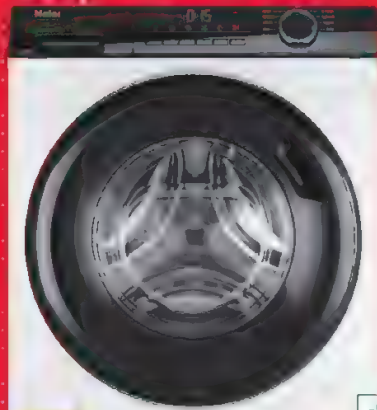
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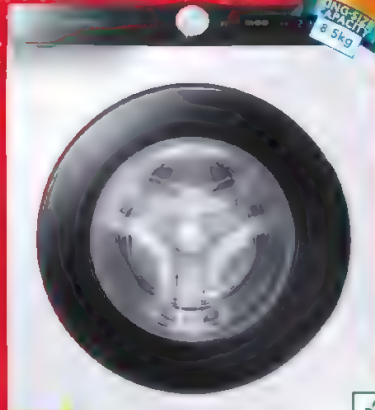
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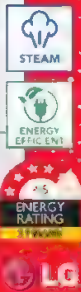
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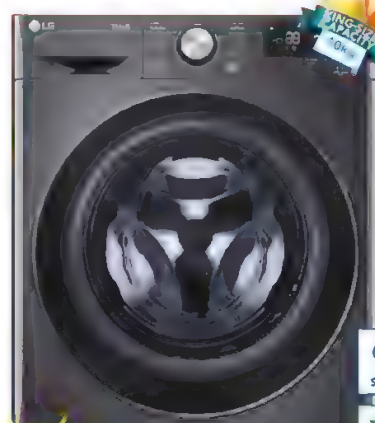


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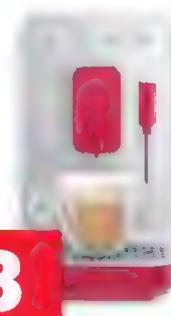


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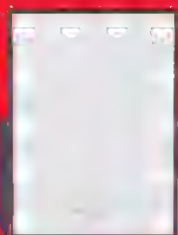
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Queensland Country Life journalist Sally Gall at work at the Ekka in Brisbane. Picture by Kelly Butterworth

AI can improve your local news

Just as technology has made many facets of our lives easier, journalism needs to responsibly embrace AI.

SAFFRON
HOWDEN



KNOWLEDGE is precious.

Consider the well-worn route to the nearest shops, the familiar faces at the local pub or school gate, the tried and tested recipe the whole family loves, or the comfort of knowing where the sun will hit the curtains at dawn in summer.

The simple, daily moments that add up to a lifetime of experience are immeasurable.

But technology has made them easier.

Now we can type in a location to a digital map and it will steer us to our destination, alerting us to traffic snarls and roadworks on the way.

We can message fellow parents in a group chat letting them know we're running late for school pick up and google meal ideas.

We can check the weather forecast on an app and find the precise time the sun will rise on Saturday.

Along came the robots

But just as we were making peace with a device-driven world, generative artificial intelligence (AI) exploded into our lives.

A year on from ChatGPT being released in the wild, authorities are grappling with the rapid uptake of AI chatbots by school and uni students to research and complete assignments.

Office workers are using AI to write emails and sort data for them, teenagers are talking to AI chatbots inside social media platforms like Snapchat, AI-generated images are fuelling misinformation, and there's a fierce race by the global tech giants to dominate the market and make squillions.



Layton Holley, an ACM reporter at The Border Mail, at work in the Albury-Wodonga region. Picture by Mark Jesser

Multiple public inquiries under way around Australia are examining how generative AI will affect health services, education, banking, employment, and our way of life.

US President Joe Biden has signed an executive order aimed at managing the risks and the European Union (EU) is scrambling to regulate the biggest disruption since the advent of computers and the internet.

What about me?

So what does all this mean for your local community, daily routines, and all the people you cherish?

I recently returned from a trip to Silicon Valley in the US for ACM, the publisher of the masthead you're reading, to find out

how AI will change how we get news and information.

And I came away with a few key thoughts.

- Generative AI is here and it's evolving on a daily basis. We can't afford to look away or wait to see what happens next before acting.
- Integrity and trust in news will be more important than ever. Mis- and disinformation will likely get worse with generative AI. Fake stories, videos, images - even voice recordings - will be harder to detect. Your local news outlet and local reporter will be key to getting trusted, reliable information when everything else seems uncertain.
- There are opportunities to speed up some of the mundane, repetitive work journalists do every day in the background so they can work on bigger, more in-depth, impactful stories about your communities.

As local news outlets, we know your towns, cities and regions as well as you.

We cover the new shops and restaurants opening, the crimes that lurk in the darkness, the council decisions that affect roads and businesses, the footy team triumphs, and the natural disasters like floods and bushfires that eviscerate history and shape the future.

We keep you informed and connected with one another. And we can't afford to be left behind as generative AI sweeps the world. ACM is at the forefront of the AI change in news. We are starting to experiment to help save our journalists, photographers and editors time so they can spend longer with you out in the community.

Right now, generative AI is helping our newsrooms to get ideas so you can find our stories more easily in search engines like

Google. We're testing ways of finding information more quickly, automating repetitive tasks, and turning our written stories into new formats so we can keep you informed, not only on our websites and in our papers, but on social media and other platforms too.

We need you

Generative AI cannot - and should not - replace the local journalism you rely on.

That's because we know our cities and communities. And we know our readers rely on us to provide news and information that is accurate and trustworthy.

Journalism is not data; it's knowledge, as one person in San Francisco said on our tour. But AI could make the news we produce better and it could make it easier to deliver. And we want to take this journey with you, our readers.

We're learning as we go and we're treading the path cautiously because it's also scary and big and unsettling. We're committed to approaching generative AI ethically, responsibly and transparently. ACM already has an AI code of conduct for all its staff so you can trust what you read. And we've established an internal working group to help investigate the risks and what's possible.

We'll be asking what you think about AI in the next Heartbeat of Australia survey too. I've worked in news for more than 20 years and I'm passionate about ensuring everyone has access to trustworthy, reliable, factual information, especially about their local communities. Generative AI is here whether we like it or not and, if it can help sustain that mission, we should (carefully) harness it.

■ Saffron Howden is ACM's national editorial trainer and leads its AI working group.

Govt, APS hilariously out of touch

Politicians, public servants, and media need to assess their disconnection from the real values of Australians.

AMANDA VANSTONE



FOR three distinct but related groups the referendum result should be a serious wake-up call.

For the government the result was and remains horrific. This was a referendum where the government took a strong position which was, apart from in the ACT, comprehensively rejected across Australia.

They had an idea, assumed Australians would accept it and even when it was clear the idea was in trouble failed to sell it.

When you tell everyone an idea is really good, you should be able to argue the case for it. And argue it well. It looked like in the first instance Labor was still high on its election win.

Possibly they thought they were rockstars and we were the smitten fans in the mosh pit. Government doesn't work like that.

In bad news for the government a lot of Labor voters were in the group that rejected the referendum. However small there is now a distance in the minds of those voters between them and the government. They have to some extent at least cut the ropes.

It's no wonder. They were effectively told they were racists if they didn't vote "yes". Aussies have a bit of back bone and calling them something they're not gets their backs right up. Then saying: "You lazy sod, if you don't know, go and find out", added insult to injury.

Plenty of swinging voters can now see that Labor just didn't understand what the electorate was thinking. That translates into "the government doesn't understand us".

For any government that's dangerous territory. It invites voters to contemplate to whom their government is listening, when it isn't listening to them. The government revealed just how hopelessly out of touch it was on this issue. Being Hopelessly Out Of Touch or a HOOT is not an accolade any minister or government wants.

Labor will understand that they can't let people see how out of touch they are again any time soon. That will add a perhaps unnecessary note of caution on future policies.

People in the caucus who sounded warnings will be emboldened. They'll smirk, at a minimum, the next time some know-it-all "yes" proponent tries to lord it over them on another issue in the party room. In brief, the major "yes" proponents in Labor have lost face, lost standing. Within the party room the power dynamics have changed. More risk for any government.

Some stupid people in the government tried to blame Dutton for the loss. Poor sods. Fancy being so stupid as to give your opponent the credit for having convinced Australians to oppose your plan. And how insulting to Australians to effectively say to them: "you idiots, you were duped by Dutton". People made up their own mind. That's the very good thing about referendums, they're not tribal.

Across Australia only the ACT voted "yes". That's the home of the Commonwealth public service. One wonders whether anyone in the APS has turned their mind to what that



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. Picture by Gary Ramage

tells the rest of us. It says that the people preparing advice for our government think differently from us. That's a serious problem for them.

Governments implement policy that affects all of us. As each election comes around we collectively decide whether to give that government another term.

It is obviously important when implementing policy governments understand what we the people think. What policies will we accept.

There's no point in advocating policy options that are an almost impossible sell in the political marketplace. The "yes" vote in the ACT tells us the APS may not understand that marketplace. That's very bad for them.

It's true that the APS isn't there to advise on public opinion. But they do need to understand the environment into which the policies they recommend would go. You might say that the ACT and within it the APS do understand what Australians think, but on this issue they simply had a different view. That's problematic.

Are we to believe that its just one outlying issue on which this group thinks differently from the rest of us? That's unlikely. And what are we to assume they think of the difference of opinion?

Are we the great unwashed? The ignorant, the ill-informed, the selfish? Do they realise how out of touch they are with mainstream Australia?

Large swathes of the media and celebrity commentariat also had their view of the world as it ought to be rebuffed by a majority of Australians. What do they think of "no" voters is interesting. My guess is there's not much space for accepting that a very large proportion of the "no" voters would have

The people preparing advice for our government think differently from us. That's a serious problem for them.

said "yes" to a simple constitutional recognition question.

They just didn't like the option on offer. "Yes" voters are more likely to categorise

"no" voters as uneducated or racist. Such is the overconfident self-absorption that celebrity or media notoriety bring.

There's nothing wrong with having a different view. It is healthy and we should all thank heavens daily that we live in a country where you can have different views and freely express them.

But when a particular cohort has different views from another it just invites investigation and speculation.

If you're a serious media commentator you might want to comment on how the government is in sync or otherwise with mainstream Australia. But if you don't understand it yourself how can you comment on the governments understanding or lack thereof.

How as a journalist can you offer a credible view about a government and whether it understands the electorate if you don't understand it yourself?

So there we stand: the government, the media and celebrity commentariat and swathes of the public service are a bunch of HOOTS. That is they are Hilariously Out Of Touch.

■ Amanda Vanstone is a former Howard government minister and a regular columnist.

Mach-E like no Ford Mustang ever made

William Stopford

FORD'S new electric SUV is a new product with a familiar name, one that carries with it tremendous brand equity but also the weight of expectations.

The 2024 Ford Mustang Mach-E may look like a Mustang, but it's wholly unrelated to the combustion-powered coupe and convertible Australia knows and loves.

It's the first Mustang with available all-wheel drive, the first Mustang with more than three doors, and perhaps most critically, the first Mustang with electric power.

To Ford's credit, while this may be like no other Mustang ever made, it's recognisably a member of the Mustang family from the outside.

It looks better in person than in photos, and there's not an enormous difference between the three variants in appearance.

Inside is a minimalist interior dominated by a 15.5-inch infotainment touchscreen. It's all quite intuitive to use, with shortcut buttons at the top of the screen and climate controls always appearing at the bottom. There's also a multi-function physical knob towards the base of the screen.

Each variant looks largely the same inside, with the same size instrument cluster and touchscreen, and a sound bar that runs across the dashboard.

All models have a black interior, but there are plenty of different materials to help break up the monotony.

There's no head-up display, but there's a slim, minimalist digital instrument cluster ahead of the driver with attractive graphics.

There's plenty of storage up front and there are both a USB-A and USB-C outlet.

All models have a huge glass roof, and it proved sufficiently tinted to keep the hot Queensland sun at bay.

All models have three top-tether and two ISOFIX anchor points for child seats in the second row.

Ford wanted to be different for the sake of being different with the e-latch door mechanisms.

Pressing a button to open a door just doesn't feel intuitive, even if Ford wants to brag that the use of actuators can stop the door from blowing in the wind.

We drove the Select and Premium over a mix of surfaces, from smooth bitumen to concrete motorways to patchier pavement, and not once did the Mach-E crash or thump over a rut in the road.

It's not perfect. It does fidget a bit on tarmac, and doesn't feel quite as settled at the rear as I'd like. Overall, however, it's



The Ford Mustang Mach-E is stylish, practical and fun to drive, but does it have the X-factor to stand out?

generally pretty smooth.

There's a balanced rear-wheel drive chassis under the Mach-E's shapely bodywork, and the Mach-E gave an overall impression of great poise.

Power delivery is smooth and the Mach-E always feels responsive.

Frustratingly, there's no physical drive mode selector - an odd choice for what's ostensibly a sporty car.

Through the drive mode screen, you can also activate the one-pedal drive mode and auto hold functions and adjust the propulsion sound. The one-pedal drive mode does allow you to bring the vehicle to a complete stop without touching the brake pedal.

The Mach-E impresses with its refinement. Its cabin is particularly well insulated - at highway speeds, on a windy day, on rough rural roads or choppy concrete freeways, very little noise entered the cabin.

There is one noise that can be heard in the cabin, but it's one I rather liked: the fake 'engine' sound. It's one of the best of any EV out there.

KEY DETAILS

2024 Ford Mustang Mach-E

- Price: From \$79,990 + ORCs
- Motors: Select and Premium - single, rear-mounted electric; GT dual-motor all-wheel drive
- Power: Select 198kW; Premium 216kW; GT 358kW
- Torque: Select and Premium 430Nm; GT 860Nm
- Range: Select 470km; Premium 600km; GT 490km
- Safety rating: Five stars ANCAP (GT untested)
- Warranty: Five years, unlimited km; battery 8 years, 160,000km
- Overall score: 8/10

All models have lane-keep assist, as well as a lane-centring function.

With the lane-keep assist, you can select

between just an aid or an aid with an alert, and you can adjust the alert intensity between high, medium and low.

To turn the system off entirely, you press the lane button on the steering wheel twice.

The lane centring works in conjunction with adaptive cruise. It works quite well, though it did briefly cancel a couple of times despite no apparent break in lane markings.

The Ford Mustang Mach-E is stylish, practical and fun to drive, but does it have the X-factor to stand out?

The Model Y has already sewn up this segment, and is currently outselling all of its rivals combined.

To make matters worse, Ford's pricing - particularly for the base grade - is quite steep. Certainly a Mach-E Select has some features a base Model Y doesn't, and arguably much more style, but is it worth \$14,000 more?

Premium pricing aside, the Mustang Mach-E is spacious and refined, and is a compelling alternative to the likes of the Model Y, EV6 and Ioniq 5.

Analytics suggest a big drop in used car prices for 2024

Scott Collie

AUSTRALIAN used car prices have continued their decline from the all-time highs hit during COVID.

Data from financial intelligence firm Moody's Analytics shows used car prices fell 0.8 per cent in October, and are now sitting 17.2 per cent below the May 2022 peak.

Strong new car supply - which drove record deliveries in October, and has propelled the Australian new car market past 1 million sales so far in 2023 - is a key driver of dropping used car prices.

Moody's Analytics is predicting prices will drop by 9.5 per cent overall in 2023, and expects a similar decline in 2024 before prices stabilise in 2025.



Used car prices are tipped to drop by 9.5 per cent this year.

"However, our economic forecast isn't without potential risks," Moody's said.

"Should the global economy underperform, the Australian economy could experience

a more severe and rapid drop in demand than currently anticipated, leading to a faster price decline.

"Conversely, there's a risk that the anticipated demand slowdown may not occur as quickly as projected, which could maintain high prices in the used-vehicle market for a longer period."

Carmakers are predicting stronger supply of new cars won't necessarily correlate with endless sales growth in line with the past six months, which would lead to sharper deals on new cars - and more used car price drops - for Australian buyers.

Toyota vice president of sales and marketing Sean Hanley recently told CarExpert the sales charts are about how many cars you can get off boats and into customer hands

in 2023, rather than how many sales dealers are making.

"While the sales results are real, they are not necessarily reflective of the demand in the market of that given month. They're only reflective of what any OEM, whatever brand, can actually deliver," Mr Hanley said.

His thoughts were echoed by Hyundai Australia boss John Kett, who told CarExpert the market growth in 2023 is "impressive", but said "a lot of it is carryover from last year".

With the Australian new car market this year on track to top 1.2 million deliveries for the first time, both Mr Hanley and Mr Kett said demand has softening since the start of 2023.

"We've been seeing it [softening] from about March this year," said Mr Hanley.

Jobs market 'reaching tipping point'

AUSTRALIA'S ultra-tight job market could be reaching a turning point as more employers flag redundancies.

Yet the sharp rise in redundancy intentions - to 31 per cent from 17 per cent - in the Australian HR Institute's quarterly survey comes alongside an uptick in organisations planning to keep hiring.

The survey of more than 600 people working in human resources revealed a 71 per cent increase in recruitment intentions in the December quarter, up from 61 per cent.

AHRI chief executive Sarah McCann-Bartlett said

there were a few reasons for the inconsistency, including severe labour shortages, whereas others were looking to cut costs via redundancies, she said.

Some corners of the economy were still experiencing severe labour shortages, whereas others were looking to cut costs via redundancies, she said. And within the same organisation, certain areas may be contracting to cut costs at the same time as recruitment for mission-critical roles continues.

Ms McCann-Bartlett said it was not clear cut, and a messy dataset often pointed to a turning point for the labour market. "Either way, 2024 looks a more challenging year for employers and

2024 looks a more challenging year for employers and workers.

AHRI chief executive Sarah McCann-Bartlett

workers," she said.

Australia's labour market has exceeded expectations for much of 2023, with unemployment hovering at 50-year lows. Deloitte Access Economics is forecasting a weaker 2024 for the jobs market, with a drop off in vacancies the first sign of trouble.

David Rumbens, lead author of a report into the

labour market outlook, said there was evidence of a tipping point emerging. "Recent job gains were driven by part-time workers, average hours worked still sits well off its 2023 peak and the underutilisation rate has been nudging upward," he said.

The economic group expects the 405,500 likely job gains for 2023 to ease to more like 75,000 in 2024, before

picking back up to 177,000 in 2025.

The local economy is still tracking towards a period of below-trend growth based on a collection of data points assembled by Westpac and the Melbourne Institute. The six-month annualised growth rate in the leading index fell further into the below zero readings in October, marking the 15th month in a row. Westpac senior economist Matthew Hassan said the leading index showed little change in the economy's sub-par performance and the "low growth rut" of 2023 would likely extend into 2024.

MARKET WATCH

THE DOLLAR

	BUYING	SELLING
USD	0.675	0.634
GBP	0.54	0.505
EUR	0.62	0.58
JPY	100.07	93.74
NZD	1.11	1.051

COMMODITIES

	CURRENT	MOVE
Gold \$US/o	1998.369	+21.175
Oil	82.49	+0.46

TOP 10 BY VALUE

	STRADED	CLOSE
BHP Group	236,248,210	47.84
ANZ Banking	140,172,469	24.34
CBA	133,580,828	103.80
Fortescue Met	112,057,619	75.44
CSL	100,301,238	259.24
Westpac Bank	90,008,383	21.23
Rio Tinto	85,329,226	127.76
PibaraMin	81,520,898	3.54
Macquarie Grp	76,408,247	167.16
Nat Aust Bank	70,986,261	27.99

KEY STOCKS

	LAST	MOVE
AMP	85	-0.15
ANZ	24.34	+0.05
BHP Group	47.84	+0.44
CBA	103.80	+0.10
NAB	27.99	+0.04
News Corp	33.90	+0.41
Rio Tinto	127.76	+0.39
Telstra	3.79	0.03
Westpac	21.23	-0.06
Woolworths	34.45	-0.05

WORLD MARKETS

	LAST	MOVE
S&P ASX200	7073.4	-4.80
All Ords	7277.8	-11.50
Dow Jones	35,088.29	-62.75
NASDAQ	14,284.53	+159.05
S&P500	4547.38	+33.36
NIKKEI225	33,451.83	+97.69
NZSE 50	11,169.8	+5.38

End of the road trip: Aussies driving less as fuel costs spiral

MOST Australian motorists are driving less, ditching road trips and considering switching to an electric car to avoid rising fuel costs, according to new research.

The Climate Council study, released on Wednesday, also revealed widespread support for the introduction of a fuel-efficiency standard in Australia to deliver more vehicles that use less fuel.

The survey findings come after Treasury figures revealed fuel prices had surged by more than 7 per cent between July and September, and were expected to remain high due to volatile oil markets.

The Climate Council research surveyed 1150 Australians and found seven in every 10 were making efforts to cut their fuel and vehicle expenses, including changing their driving habits, cutting back on long road trips, and skipping vehicle maintenance.

More than half of those surveyed also felt the introduction of a fuel-efficiency standard could help them

save money, and just under half (49 per cent) supported the federal government's plans to introduce a standard.

A fuel-efficiency standard would set an emissions limit

on the fleets of car manufacturers, encouraging them to import more low-emission vehicles to Australia and penalising brands if they failed to meet the standard.

The federal government

pledged to introduce the rule as part of its National Electric Vehicle Strategy, with a draft due for release by the end of the year.

Petrol prices have risen substantially during 2023,

with the Australian Institute of Petroleum revealing that the average retail price of petrol reached \$2.01 a litre last week, and averaged \$2.03 a litre over the past 12 weeks.



The Climate Council says Australia's lack of fuel efficiency standards gives cost rises more impact. Picture AAP

ASX steady as property lags, utilities gain

THE local sharemarket has closed slightly lower, in its fourth straight session of low volatility amid a holiday-shortened week in the United States.

The benchmark S&P/ASX200 index finished Wednesday down 4.8 points, or 0.07 per cent, to 7073.4, while the broader All Ordinaries dropped 11.5 points, or 0.16 per cent, to 7277.8.

"Heading into Thanksgiving, the markets are taking on a holiday feel," said Capital.com market analyst Kyle Rodda.

Overnight saw the release of Federal Reserve minutes from the central bank's November 1 meeting that showed committee members would "proceed carefully" with policy, reinforcing expectations the Fed was finished hiking interest rates.

AI chipmaker Nvidia also blew out expectations by posting \$US18.1 billion (\$27.6 billion) in revenue for the third quarter, up 206 per cent from a year ago.

EToro market analyst Josh Gilbert said the company

was delivering on sky-high expectations with home run after home run. "AI isn't just Wall Street hype but, clearly, a revolutionary technology that is making Nvidia serious money," Mr Gilbert said.

The ASX's 11 official sectors finished mixed, with four up, six down and the heavyweight financials basically flat. The Big Four banks were mixed, with Westpac down 0.3 per cent to \$21.23, ANZ up 0.2 per cent to \$24.34, and CBA and NAB both up 0.1 per cent, to \$103.80 and \$27.99.

The utilities sector rose 0.9 per cent, with Origin Energy climbing 1.7 per cent to \$8.42 on the eve of Thursday's meeting where shareholders will approve or reject its \$16 billion acquisition by a private equity consortium.

Medibank Private fell 1.4 per cent to \$3.46 even as chief executive David Koczkar told the health insurer's AGM that business had returned to growth after taking a hit from the hacking of customer data 13 months ago.

Widening career pathways

A RENEWED focus is being put on helping people living with a disability stay in jobs and progress their careers, amid hopes a fresh approach will change attitudes of employers. Coles Group, Compass Group, Kmart and Target Group and Woolworths have signed up for a \$3.3 million federal government careers pathway pilot program. The unemployment rate for people with a disability is higher than average and hasn't shifted for

three decades. More than 90 per cent of working-age people with a disability report difficulty finding jobs, with employer perceptions about their limitations a major impediment. The pilot program aimed to ensure they had the same career progression opportunity as everyone else, Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth said. "This program will allow employers to support people with disability advance their careers."

PUZZLES

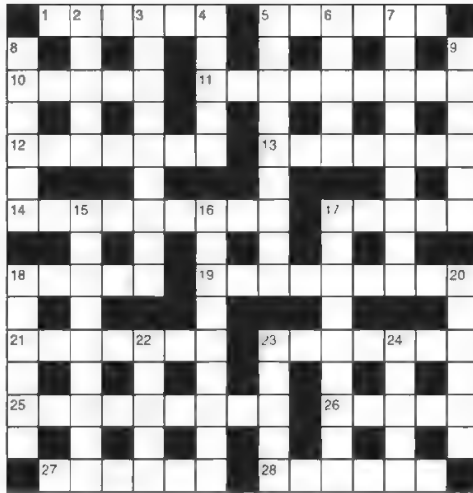
ENGLISH CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 30,593

ACROSS

- 1 Get naked with sweetheart for streak (6)
 5 Wife that is most ample (6)
 10 Get together when entertaining old ladies? (5)
 11 Free former partner, single before judge (9)
 12 Gruesome as lesion's concealing disease (7)
 13 Best delivery company label with English (7)
 14 Merchant and master in exchange (9)
 17 One's trapped in stifling lift (5)
 18 Promotion and Cambridge university grant (5)
 19 Listless cheat with girl confused (9)
 21 Coward some regard as tardy (7)
 23 More masculine person who minces? (7)
 25 Common European standard? (9)
 26 Damn solution absorbing solver primarily (5)
 27 Respecting Church vessel for apse (6)
 28 States election's beginning to get hostile (6)

DOWN

- 2 Tribal roar, occasionally displaying headdress (5)
 3 Rude about head of Venus bust (9)
 4 Quits, still without love (5)



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- 5 Hint wound around crime mystery (9)
 6 Pass on tasteless empty fasts (5)
 7 Marine is fierce suppressing fear, oddly (9)
 8 Male animal pack upset animal (6)
 9 Command from top to carry explosive (6)
 15 It's a crime breaking ceasefire (9)
 16 Yours truly, large and offensive? Sweet! (9)

- 17 Try article about a Conservative suffering (9)
 18 Inspects cars including MOT finally (6)
 20 Worries about start of incisor decay (6)
 22 Idolise a Queen over holding party (5)
 23 Bulge under rascal, say, aching initially (5)
 24 Hard on weapons causing injuries (5)

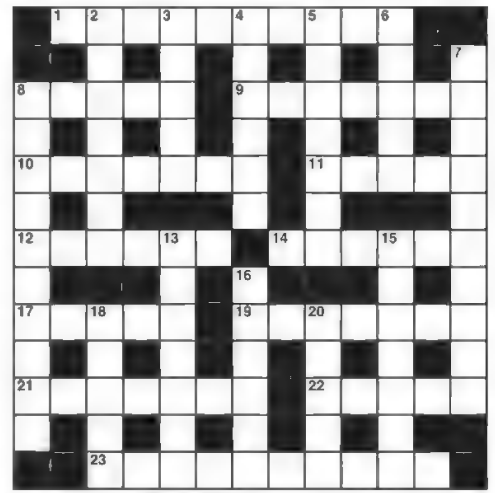
GEMINI CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 10,450

ACROSS

- 1 Off-putting food? (3,7)
 8 Blame fracture for mount's pace (5)
 9 Being brighter is less confused (7)
 10 It may be caged but could be paroled (7)
 11 They employ devious ruses (5)
 12 Fat? Pull everything in (6)
 14 Worst cry of pain to give (6)
 17 More of a player perhaps (5)
 19 Note proposal of love for example (7)
 21 Extremely important stations (7)
 22 A very rich man delves into his pocket perhaps (5)
 23 Business Initiative (10)

DOWN

- 2 Rile mob maybe and start trouble (7)
 3 It can laugh though it doesn't get the lion's share (5)
 4 Go back and make a further concession? (6)
 5 Die frozen stiff (3,4)
 6 A common plant in Spring or September (5)
 7 Blows that aren't felt directly (10)
 8 In a way almost lent shares (10)
 13 Hoping to benefit from a reduction in the fare (2,1,4)



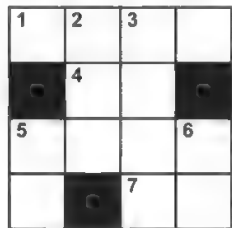
©Auspec Media

- 15 Robbers appear the night before breaking into this (7)
 16 No rise for those more advanced in service (6)
 18 All-male crew of a novel boat (5)
 20 Decoration only given to subordinates? (5)

5X5 Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

C		E		T
	O		T	
R		R		R
	R		E	
O		D		Y

TINY CROSS 1123



ACROSS

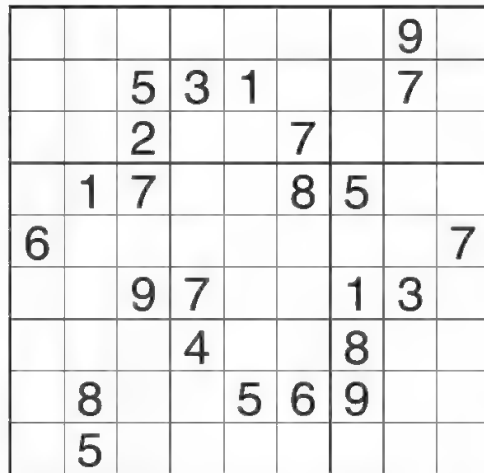
- 1 Rivet (4)
 4 Email recipient field (2)
 5 Sneak a look (4)
 7 Carry out (2)

DOWN

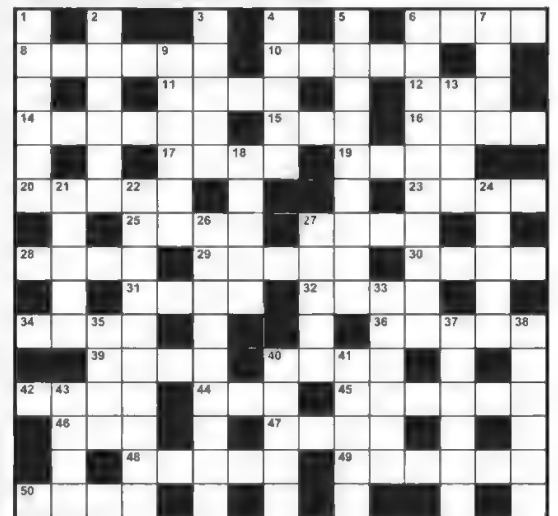
- 2 Wunderkind (3)
 3 Cold (4)
 5 Secretary (1,1)
 6 Make someone unconscious (abbrev) (2)

SUDOKU 130

You are given a 9x9 grid which has been divided up into nine 3x3 boxes. The aim of the game is very simple: to fill each row, column and 3x3 box with the numbers from 1 to 9 inclusive. Level of difficulty: Hard



QUICK CROSSWORD 299



ACROSS

- 6 Void
 8 Address identifier (4,2)
 10 Windbreaker
 11 Aware of
 12 Uncooked
 14 Shame
 15 As well
 16 Swear
 17 Song and dance, e.g.
 19 Equitable
 20 Uncertainty
 23 Rescue
 25 Flower

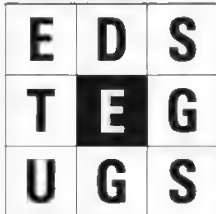
- 27 Slippery fish (PI)
 28 Palm tree species
 29 About, misfortunes
 30 Injuries
 31 Ogle
 32 Chances
 34 Via the mouth
 36 Alternative
 39 Elevator
 40 Sun protection
 42 Self-referential
 44 Frozen water
 45 Intending
 46 Put on
 47 Seethe

- 48 Seat
 49 Correspondance
 50 Carnival

DOWN

- 1 Entertained
 2 Surroundings
 3 Echo sounder
 4 Dots
 5 Check for errors
 6 Self-obsessed person
 7 Rules
 9 Red fruit
 13 Subtle emanation
 18 Belonging to them
 21 Academy Award
 22 Genius
 24 Faucet
 26 Unconvinced
 27 Common bacterium (1,4)
 33 Submissive
 35 Countertenor
 37 Cranes
 38 Look at
 40 African horse
 41 Aces
 43 Border

9-LETTER 040



TODAY'S TARGET:

GOOD: 14 VERY GOOD: 17 EXCELLENT: 24+

Reference: Macquarie Dictionary.

2311 PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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WORDFIND Theme: Textures

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



ARID
BALD
BLISTERED
CLAMMY
CLEAN

COARSE
COLD
DAMP
DEEP
DIRTY

DOWNY
DULL
DUSTY
ENCRUSTED
EVEN

FEATHERY
FIRM
FLAT
FLEECY
FLUFFY
FROTHY
GELATINOUS
GLAZED
GOOEY
GRIMY
HAIRY
HARD
HEATED
INFLEXIBLE
LAYERED
LIMP
MUSHY
PADDED
PARCHED
PITTED
RAGGED
RUNNY
SCORED
SLEEK
SOFT
TOUGH
WAVY
WOOLLEN
WOVEN

CROSSMATHS 130

Insert each number from 1 to 9 in the shaded squares to solve all the horizontal and vertical equations

Multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

	x		+		=	24
+		-		÷		
	x		x		=	15
x		x		x		
	x		÷		=	14
=		=		=		
42		2		8		

WOLLONGONG

23°C

Shower or two.

FRI 18/23°C

SAT 19/24°C

SUN 19/27°C

MON 18/23°C

TUE 17/21°C

WED 16/20°C

BATEMANS BAY

24°C

Shower or two.

FRI 15/24°C

SAT 16/26°C

SUN 16/28°C

MON 14/22°C

TUE 12/20°C

WED 12/20°C

CANBERRA

26°C

Partly cloudy

FRI 12/24°C

SAT 13/23°C

SUN 12/25°C

MON 10/23°C

TUE 9/21°C

WED 9/19°C

REGIONAL OUTLOOK

WARNINGS were current at 5pm yesterday.
www.bom.gov.au/australia/warnings
1300 659 210 (cost of a local call)

CANBERRA
Partly cloudy. Light winds becoming east to southeasterly 20 to 30 km/h morning.

ILLAWARRA
Partly cloudy. Medium chance of showers. Winds southerly 15 to 25 km/h increasing to 30 km/h before turning southeasterly 15 to 20 km/h in the middle of the day.

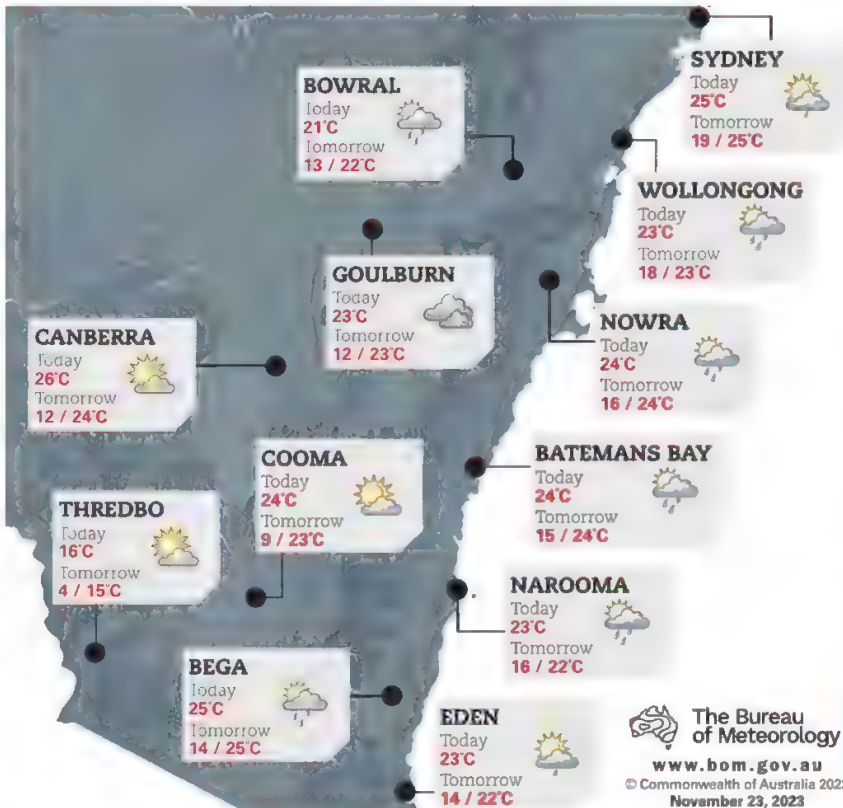
SOUTH COAST
Partly cloudy. Medium chance of showers, most likely afternoon and evening. Light winds becoming southerly 15 to 20 km/h morning then tending southeasterly 15 to 25 km/h in the middle of the day.

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS
Partly cloudy. Medium chance of showers in the east, most likely evening. Winds east to southeasterly 25 to 35 km/h.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS
Partly cloudy. Slight chance of a shower in the east. Light winds becoming southeasterly 15 to 25 km/h morning then tending easterly early afternoon.

ILLAWARRA COASTAL WATERS
Port Hacking to Ulladulla
Winds: Southerly 15 to 20 knots, reaching up to 25 knots offshore late morning and early afternoon. Winds turning southeasterly evening. Seas: 1 to 1.5 m, increasing to 1.5 to 2 m morning. Swell: Southerly 1.5 m.

BATEMANS COASTAL WATERS
Ulladulla to Montague Island
Winds: Southerly 15 to 20 knots turning southeasterly early afternoon. Seas: Around 1 m, increasing to 1 to 1.5 m morning. Swell: Southerly 1 to 1.5 m. Weather: Partly cloudy.



YESTERDAY

Location	**Max	Min	Rain*
Bega	27	13	6.6
Canberra	28	11	0.2
Cooma	22	6	0.4
Goulburn	25	14	1.0
Kiama	22	18	2.0
Merimbula	27	15	12.4
Moruya	24	15	3.6
Nowra	25	15	0.8
Thredbo	14	2	21.2
Tuggeranong	27	10	0.0
Ulladulla	23	17	0.4
Wollongong	23	17	1.8

THE TIDES

SYDNEY	High 5:42am 1.5m	5:51pm 1.6m
	Low 11:43am 0.6m	
TOMORROW	High 6:31am 1.6m	6:47pm 1.5m
	Low 12:11am 0.4m	12:46pm 0.5m
PORT KEMBLA	High 5:45am 1.4m	5:48pm 1.5m
	Low 11:42am 0.5m	
TOMORROW	High 6:33am 1.6m	6:45pm 1.5m
	Low 12:11am 0.3m	12:46pm 0.4m
EDEN	High 5:46am 1.5m	5:46pm 1.5m
	Low 11:44am 0.6m	
TOMORROW	High 6:34am 1.6m	6:45pm 1.5m
	Low 12:08am 0.4m	12:49pm 0.5m

Canberra

4:40am to 4:50pm

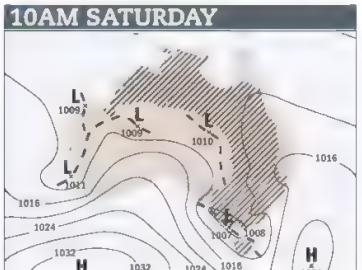
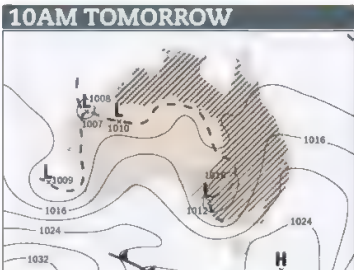
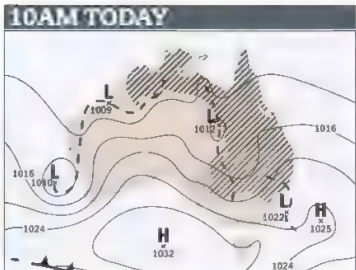
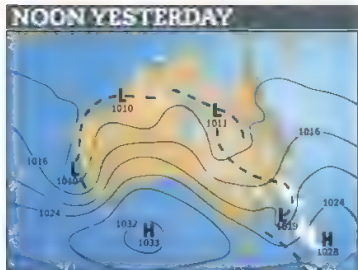
Wollongong

8:40am to 4:40pm

Sunny Mostly Sunny Partly Cloudy Cloudy Chance shower Shower or two Showers Showers storm Storms Chance rain (drizzle) Light rain Rain Rain, storm Windy Dusty Fog Haze, smoke Snow

Forecast Rain 24 hrs to 9pm

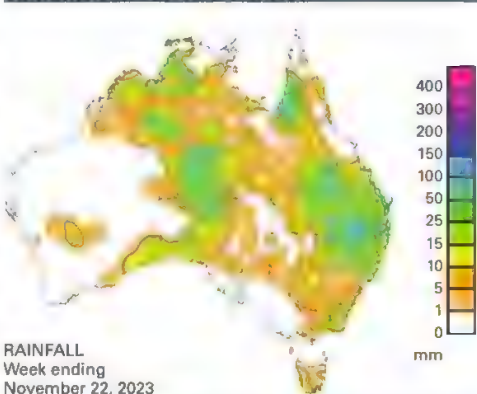
1024 hectoPascals (hPa) trough cold front warm front



THE WORLD

Location	Weather	High	Low
Amsterdam	cloudy	10	5
Athens	cloudy	22	13
Auckland	fine	22	15
Bangkok	fine	34	24
Barcelona	sunny	19	8
Beijing	fine	3	-2
Christchurch	windy	27	12
Frankfurt	cloudy	8	1
Helsinki	cloudy	-2	-9
Hong Kong	sunny	27	20
Johannesburg	storms	33	19
Kuala Lumpur	storms	33	25
London	cloudy	13	10
Los Angeles	sunny	22	12
Moscow	snow	-7	-9
Noumea	sunny	27	20
Paris	sunny	13	6
Port Vila	fine	29	21
Rio De Janeiro	storms	40	24
Rome	cloudy	18	8
Seoul	rain	12	9
Singapore	storms	33	24
Suva	storms	31	23
Tel Aviv	fine	23	16
Tokyo	fine	22	12
Vancouver	sunny	8	1
Washington	sunny	13	5
Wellington	fine	19	13

RAINFALL - LAST 7 DAYS



RAINFALL Week ending November 22, 2023

SUN & MOON

SYDNEY Rise 5:40am Set 7:43pm

MELBOURNE Rise 5:55am Set 8:18pm

CANBERRA Rise 5:45am Set 7:55pm

HOBART Rise 5:32am Set 8:22pm

Rise 3:17pm Set 2:56am

Rise 3:44pm Set 3:22am

Rise 3:26pm Set 3:05am

Rise 3:35pm Set 3:14am

PHASES OF THE MOON

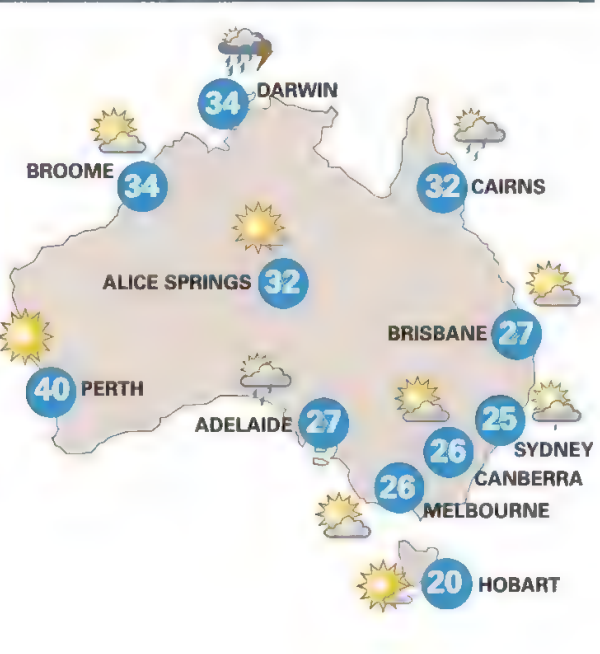
Full Nov 27

Last Dec 5

New Dec 13

First Dec 20

AUSTRALIA TODAY



THURSDAY, November 23

ABC TV (CH 2, 20)	SBS (CH 3, 30)	SEVEN (CH 4)	NINE (CH 8, 80)	TEN (CH 5)
6.00 News Breakfast. 9.00 ABC News Mornings. 10.00 Australian Story. (R) 10.30 That Pacific Sports Show. (R) 11.00 Planet America. (R) 11.30 Rosie Batty's One Plus One. (R) 12.00 ABC News At Noon. 1.00 Better Date Than Never. (PG, R) 1.30 Question Everything. (R) 2.05 The Science Of Relationships: A Catalyst Special. (PG, R) 3.00 Gardening Australia. (R) 4.00 Escape From The City. (R) 5.00 Back Roads. (R) 5.30 Hard Quiz. (PG, R)	6.00 WorldWatch. 8.00 DD India Prime Time News. 9.25 Home Is Where The Art Is. 10.15 Paddington Station 24/7. (PGa) 11.05 Great Canal Journeys. (PGa) 12.00 BBC News At Ten 12.30 ABC World News Tonight With David Muir. 1.00 PBS NewsHour. 2.00 Legends Of The Pharaohs (PGa) 2.55 Mastermind Australia. 3.25 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw. (R) 3.55 World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) 5.05 Jeopardy! (R) 5.30 Letters And Numbers. (R)	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. (PG) 11.30 Seven Morning News. 12.00 MOVIE Nowhere To Be Found. (2019, Mav, R) 2.00 Border Security: International. An oil-rigger worker is drilled on his shady past. (PG, R) 2.30 Australia's Deadliest. A surfer faces his biggest fear. (PG, R) 3.00 The Chase. Hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R) 4.00 Seven News At 4. 5.00 The Chase Australia. Hosted by Larry Emdur. (R)	6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. (PG) 11.30 Morning News. 12.00 MOVIE Christmas At Castle Hart. Lacy Chabert. A woman searches for her Irish roots (2021) 2.00 Pointless. Presented by Alexander Armstrong. (PG, R) 3.00 Tipping Point. Hosted by Ben Shephard. (PG) 4.00 Afternoon News. 4.30 Millionaire Hot Seat. Hosted by Eddie McGuire. 5.30 WIN News.	6.00 The Talk. (PGa) 7.00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 7.30 Entertainment Tonight. 8.00 Farm To Fork. 8.30 Judge Judy. (PG) 9.00 The Bold And The Beautiful. (PGa) 9.30 Neighbours. (PGa, R) 10.00 Studio 10. (PG) 12.00 10 News First: Midday. 1.00 To Be Advised. 2.30 Dr Phil. (PG, R) 3.30 Farm To Fork. 4.00 Neighbours. (PGa) 4.30 The Bold And The Beautiful. (PGa) 5.00 10 News First.
6.00 The Drum. Analysis of the day's news. 7.00 ABC News. A look at the top stories of the day. 7.30 7.30. Presented by Sarah Ferguson. 8.00 Bill Bailey's Wild West Australia: Exmouth. Part 2 of 4. (PG) 8.50 Grand Designs: Billingshurst. Kevin McCloud meets a master carpenter who wants to create an oasis for him and his partner. (M, R) 9.40 Miriam Margolyes Almost Australian: The Australian Dream. Part 1 of 3. (M, R) 10.40 ABC Late News. Coverage of the day's events. 10.55 The Business. (R) 11.10 The Way We Wore. (PG, R) 12.05 Q+A. (R) 1.10 Rage. (MA15+adv) (PG) 4.00 Courtney Act's One Plus One. (R) 4.30 The Drum. (R) 5.30 7.30. (R)	6.00 Mastermind Australia. (R) 6.30 SBS World News. 7.35 Secret World Of Snacks: Burgers. Narrated by Jo Brand. 8.30 Adam And Poh's Great Australian Bites. Part 2 of 4. Adam and Poh head to Victoria's Gippsland region to discover what it is we love about simple home cooking. 9.30 Coastal Ireland With Adrian Dunbar. Part 1 of 2. Adrian Dunbar travels the coast of Ireland, beginning with a visit to the Mizen Head Bridge. (PG, R) 10.20 SBS World News Late. 10.50 Pacific Games Highlights. Highlights from the Pacific Games. 11.50 Reyka. (MA15+adv, R) 3.45 Going Places With Ernie Dingo. (PGaw, R) 4.45 Bamay. (R) 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.30 ANC Philippines The World Tonight.	6.00 Seven News. 7.00 Home And Away. Felicity's apology tour hits the Bay. (PGa) 7.30 Border Security: Australia's Front Line. Officers find something on a visitor's phone that could mean an abrupt end to his holiday. (PG, R) 8.30 The Front Bar. Sam Pang, Mick Molloy and Andy Maher take a lighter look at the world of sport and catch up with the stars. (M) 9.30 The 1% Club. Jim Jefferies hosts a game show where contestants must answer increasingly obscure questions. (PGIs, R) 10.35 The Latest: Seven News. 11.05 A Friend Of The Family. Jan adopts a more grown-up persona. (MA15+adv) 12.20 Pearson. Construction starts on North Park. (Mav, R) 1.20 Harry's Practice. (R) 2.00 Home Shopping. (R) 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Seven Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Nine News. 7.00 A Current Affair. 7.30 RBT. Follows police units that operate random breath-test patrols around Australia. (PGI) 8.30 Emergency. Doctors fear a cyclist with glass sticking out of his neck could bleed out. (Mim) 9.30 Big Miracles. Follows 10 Australian couples and singles on their journey to becoming parents with the help of IVF. (Mam, R) 10.30 Nine News Late. 11.00 Chicago Med. (MA15+adv) 11.50 The Teenager Who Hacked Twitter. (M) 12.40 Tipping Point. Hosted by Ben Shephard. (PG, R) 1.35 Pointless. (PG, R) 2.30 Global Shop. (R) 3.00 TV Shop: Home Shopping. (R) 4.00 Believer's Voice Of Victory. (PGa) 4.30 A Current Affair. (R) 5.00 News Early Edition. 5.30 Today.	6.30 The Project. A look at the day's news and events. 7.30 Mirror Mirror: Are You Well? Part 2 of 2. Todd Sampson explores how the wellness industry capitalises on the endless desire to optimise our lives. (Mads) 9.00 Law & Order: SVU. A lifesaver asks the Special Victims Unit for help when he suspects his boss is preying on his sister. (Ma, R) 10.00 The Cheap Seats. Presenters Melanie Bracewell and Tim McDonald take a look at the week that was. (Ma, R) 11.00 Blue Bloods. Danny probes a series of violent robberies. (Ma, R) 12.00 The Project. A look at the day's news and events. (R) 1.00 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. Hosted by Stephen Colbert. (PG) 2.00 Home Shopping. (R) 4.30 CBS Mornings. Morning news and talk show
ABC TV PLUS (CH 22)	SBS VICELAND (CH 31)	7TWO (CH 62)	9GO! (CH 82)	10 PEACH (CH 52)
6.00 Children's Programs. 3.15 PJ Masks. 3.30 Play School. 4.00 Andy's Wild Adventures. 4.35 Go Jetters. 5.05 Piffarries. 5.30 Kiya And The Kimoja Heroes. 5.55 Peter Rabbit. 6.30 Andy And The Band. 7.05 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. 7.30 Spicks And Specks. (PG) 8.00 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 8.30 Hard Quiz. (PG) 9.00 Question Everything. 9.30 Penn & Teller: Fool Us. (PG) 10.15 Australian Epic. (M) 10.45 Whose Line Is It Anyway? (M) 11.10 Adam Hills: The Last Leg. (M) 11.50 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 12.20 Adam Hills: The Last Leg. (M) 1.05 Live At The Apollo. (M) 1.50 Louis Theroux: By Reason Of Insanity. (M) 2.55 Close. 5.00 Children's Programs.	6.00 WorldWatch. 10.00 Shortland St. (PG) 11.00 Pacific Games Highlights. Highlights from the Pacific Games. 12.00 Pacific Games. Day 4. Afternoon session. 5.00 Pacific Games. Day 4. Evening session. Featuring a variety of events from the XVII Pacific Games. From Honiara, Solomon Islands. 10.00 NITV News Update. 10.05 Inside The World's Toughest Prisons. (M) 11.05 Sex Tape Germany. (MA15+adv) 12.15 F*ck. That's Delicious. (MA15+adv) 12.45 Most Expensive. (M) 1.40 King Of The Road. (MA15+adv) 2.30 NHK World English News. 5.00 Al Jazeera.	6.00 Home Shopping. 6.30 I Escaped To The Country. 7.30 The Zoo. 8.00 Million Dollar Minute. 9.00 Harry's Practice. 9.30 NBC Today. 12.00 Better Homes And Gardens. 1.00 I Escaped To The Country. 2.00 South Aussie With Cosi. (PG) 2.30 My Greek Odyssey. (PG) 3.30 The Zoo. 4.00 Surf Patrol. (PG) 4.30 Better Homes And Gardens. 5.30 I Escaped To The Country. 6.30 Bargain Hunt. 7.30 Father Brown. (M) 9.30 Murdoch Mysteries. (M) 11.30 Father Brown. (M) 1.30 Harry's Practice. 2.00 The Zoo. 2.30 Surf Patrol. (PG) 3.00 Better Homes. 4.00 Million Dollar Minute. 5.00 Harry's Practice. 5.30 James Robison. (PG)	6.00 Children's Programs. 12.00 Medium. (M) 1.00 Bewitched. 1.30 Raymond. (PG) 2.30 Full House. 3.00 MacGyver. (PG) 4.00 Family Ties. (PG) 4.30 The Addams Family. 5.00 Bewitched. 5.30 I Dream Of Jeannie. (PG) 6.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (PG) 7.00 Young Sheldon. (PG) 7.30 Survivor 45. (PG) 9.00 Love Island Australia. (M) 10.15 Botched By Nature. (M) 11.15 I've Got A Text With Josh And Flex! 12.00 Under The Dome. (M) 1.00 Life After Lockup. (M) 2.00 I Dream Of Jeannie. 2.30 Full House. 3.00 Bakugan: Geogan Rising. (PG) 3.30 Ninjago. (PG) 4.00 Ricky Zoom. 4.30 TV Shop. 5.00 Pokémon. (PG) 5.30 Yu-Gi-Oh! Sevens. (PG)	6.00 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. (PG) 7.00 Becker. (PG) 8.00 Seinfeld. (PG) 9.00 Friends. (PG) 10.00 The King Of Queens. (PG) 11.00 Frasier. (PG) 12.00 Becker. (PG) 1.00 The Big Bang Theory. (PG) 2.00 Seinfeld. (PG) 3.00 The King Of Queens. (PG) 4.00 Becker. (PG) 5.00 Frasier. (PG) 6.00 Friends. (PG) 6.30 Neighbours. (PG) 7.00 Friends. (PG) 8.00 The Big Bang Theory. (M) 9.30 Seinfeld. Highlights of the first 100 episodes. (PG) 11.30 Frasier. (PG) 12.00 Home Shopping. 1.30 Stephen Colbert. (PG) 2.30 King Of Queens. (PG) 3.30 Bold. (PG) 4.30 Shopping.
ABC ME (CH 23)	SBS WORLD MOVIES (CH 32)	7MATE (CH 64)	9GEM (CH 81)	10 BOLD (CH 53)
6.00 Children's Programs. 10.20 Maddie. The Zoo And You. 11.05 BTN. (PG) 12.00 Odd Squad. 12.30 The Brilliant World Of Tom Gates. 12.45 Malory Towers. 1.00 Merlin. (PG) 1.55 Horrible Histories. 2.25 Dorg Van Dango. 3.15 Dennis & Gnasher: Unleashed! (PG) 3.30 The Deep. 4.20 Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs. 4.40 The Investigators. 5.00 Kung Fu Panda. (PG) 5.20 Miraculous. (PG) 5.45 Hotel Transylvania. 6.00 Hardball. 6.30 Operation Ouchi. 6.45 Merlin. (PG) 7.35 The Fairly OddParents. 8.20 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (PG) 8.45 Detention Adventure. 9.00 School Of Rock. 9.20 Hank Zipzer. 9.50 Rage. (PG) 11.15 Close.	6.00 The Way. Continued. Emilio Estevez. (2010, PGad) 8.00 December Boys. Daniel Radcliffe. (2007) 10.00 Living Is Easy With Eyes Closed. Javier Camara. (2013, Spanish, Mlms) 12.00 All's Wedding. Osamah Sami. (2017, M) 2.05 Creation. Paul Bettany. (2009, PGa) 4.05 God Willing. Marco Giallini. (2015, Italian, PGalsv) 5.40 On A Clear Day. Peter Mullan. (2005, PGa) 7.30 Dating The Enemy. Guy Pearce. Claudia Karvan. (1996, Ms) 9.30 He Died With A Felafel In His Hand. Noah Taylor. Emily Hamilton. (2001, MA15+adv) 11.25 About Last Night. (1986, Mads) 1.30 Fatima. (2020, Mav) 3.40 Hearts And Bones. (2019, Malsv) 5.45 The Movie Shog. (PG)	6.00 Shopping. 7.00 Oz Fish TV. (PG) 7.30 Creek To Coast. 8.00 A Football Life. (PG) 9.00 Drag Racing. NDRC Nitro Funny Cars. Round 1. Highlights. 10.00 American Pickers. (PG) 11.00 Pawn Stars. (PG) 12.00 Highway Patrol. (PG) 1.00 The Force. BTL. (PG) 2.00 Truck Night In America. (PG) 3.00 Billy The Exterminator. (PG) 3.30 Aussie Lobster Men. (PG) 4.30 Storage Wars. (PG) 5.00 American Restoration. (PG) 5.30 American Pickers. (PG) 6.30 Pawn Stars. (PG) 7.30 Family Guy. (M) 8.30 American Dad! (PG) 9.30 Darradong Local Council. (MA15+adv) 10.50 Simpsons. (PG) 12.20 American Pickers. (PG) 1.20 Pawn Stars. (PG) 2.30 Sound FX. Best Of 3.00 Late Programs.	6.00 Tennis. Davis Cup. Quarter-final Australia v Czechia. Continued. From Palacio de Deportes José María Martín Cárpena, Malaga, Spain. 9.00 TV Shop: Home Shopping. 10.30 Pointless. (PG) 11.30 My Favorite Martian. 12.00 Golf. Australian PGA Championship. Final round. From Royal Queensland Golf Club, Brisbane. 5.00 As Time Goes By. (PG) 5.30 Yorkshire Auction House. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 Keeping Up Appearances. (PG) 8.40 The Brokenwood Mysteries. (M) 10.40 See No Evil. (M) 11.40 Madam Secretary. (M) 12.40 Instinct. (MA15+adv) 1.40 Rizzoli & Isles. (M) 2.35 The Closer. (M) 3.30 Major Crimes. (M) 4.30 Joyce Meyer. (PG) 5.00 Easy Eats.	6.00 Home Shopping. 8.00 Soccer. 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifier. AFC round 2. Australia v Bangladesh. Highlights. From AAMI Park, Melbourne. 8.30 Diagnosis Murder. (PG) 9.30 Jake And The Fatman. (PG) 10.30 JAG. (PG) 12.30 NCIS. (M) 1.30 NCIS: Los Angeles. (M) 2.30 Jake And The Fatman. (PG) 3.30 Diagnosis Murder. (PG) 5.30 JAG. (PG) 7.30 Bull. (M) 8.30 NCIS. DiNozzo is partnered with his girlfriend. (M) 9.25 NCIS: New Orleans. (MA15+adv) 10.20 FBI. (M) 11.15 FBI. International. (M) 12.15 Shopping. 2.15 Diagnosis Murder. (PG) 4.05 JAG. (PG)
ABC NEWS (CH 24)	SBS FOOD (CH 33)	7BRAVO (CH 65)	9LIFE (CH 84)	NITV (CH 85)
6.00 News Breakfast. 9.00 ABC News Mornings. 12.00 ABC News At Noon. 2.00 ABC News Day. 3.00 ABC News Afternoons. 4.00 Afternoon Briefing. 5.00 ABC News With Joe O'Brien. 6.00 ABC Evening News. 7.00 ABC National News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 ABC News Tonight. 8.45 The Business. 9.00 ABC Nightly News. 9.30 Planet America. 10.00 The World. 11.00 News. 11.30 The Drum. 12.30 News. 1.15 The Business. 1.30 7.30. 2.00 DW News. 2.30 News. 3.00 DW News. 3.30 The World. 4.30 7.30. 5.00 DW News. 5.15 The Business. 5.30 Compas.	6.00 Morning Programs. 10.30 Mystery Diners. (PG) 11.00 The Cook Up. 11.30 James Martin's Spanish Adventures. 12.30 All Up In My Grill. 1.30 The Chocolate Queen. (PG) 2.00 Barefoot Contessa. 2.30 In Search Of Umami. (PG) 3.00 The Italian Vegan Chef. 3.30 Choccywoccy. (PG) 4.00 Dolce India. 4.30 My Market Kitchen. 5.00 Mary Makes It Easy. 5.30 Freshly Picked. 6.00 Food Safari. 6.30 Lidia's Kitchen. (PG) 7.00 The Cook Up. 7.30 Fruits Of The Sea. (PG) 8.00 Paula McIntyre's Hamely Kitchen. (PG) 8.30 Guillaume's Paris. 9.00 Paradise Kitchen Ball. (PG) 9.30 Dine With Me UK. (PG) 10.30 The Cook Up. 11.00 Late Programs.	6.00 Shark Tank. (PG) 7.00 Undercover Boss. (PG) 8.00 Million Dollar Listing NY. (PG) 9.00 Top Chef. (PG) 10.00 Shark Tank. (PG) 11.00 Undercover Boss. (PG) 12.00 Killer Couples. (M) 1.00 The Real Housewives Of Orange County. (M) 2.00 Shark Tank. (PG) 3.00 Judge Jerry. (PG) 3.30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. (PG) 4.30 Million Dollar Listing NY. (PG) 5.30 Undercover Boss. (PG) 6.30 Shark Tank. (PG) 7.30 Botched. (M) 8.30 LA Fire & Rescue. (M) 9.30 Below Deck. (M) 10.30 Snapped. (M) 11.30 Housewives Of Beverly Hills. (M) 12.30 Botched. (M) 1.30 LA Fire & Rescue. (M) 2.30 Below Deck. (M) 3.30 Snapped. (M) 4.30 Late Programs.	6.00 House Hunters Int. 6.30 House Hunters. 7.00 The Garden Hustle. (PG) 8.00 The Block. (PG) 9.30 House Hunters Int. 10.30 House Hunters. 11.00 Amazing Space. 11.30 Yard Crashers. (PG) 12.00 Good Bones. (PG) 1.00 Self Made Mansions. 2.00 Home Town. 3.00 The Block. (PG) 4.00 Amazing Space. 4.30 Yard Crashers. (PG) 5.00 Fixer To Fabulous. 6.00 House Hunters International. 7.00 House Hunters. 7.30 House Hunters Renovation. 8.30 Fixer Upper. (PG) 9.30 My Lottery Dream Home. (PG) 10.30 Unsellable Houses. 11.30 House Hunters Int. 12.30 House Hunters. 1.00 House Hunters Reno. 2.00 My Lottery Dream Home. (PG) 2.30 Late Programs.	6.00 Morning Programs. 10.00 Wild Rockies. (PG) 10.50 Anthem Sessions Interstitials. (PG) 11.00 BLK. An Origin Story. (PG) 11.50 Anthem Sessions Interstitials. 12.00 Going Places. 1.30 Persons Of Interest. (M) 2.30 The Cook Up. 3.00 Motown Magic. 3.25 Aussie Bush Tales. 3.40 Fresh Fairytales. 4.00 The Magic Canoe. 4.30 Spartakus And The Sun Beneath The Sea. 5.00 The 77 Percent. 5.30 Pacific Games Highlights. Highlights from the Pacific Games. 6.30 News. 6.40 Wild Rockies. 7.30 Going Places. (PG) 8.30 The Panthers. (MA15+adv) 9.30 No Ordinary Black. (M) 9.40 MOVIE Suburban Mayhem. (2006, MA15+adv) 11.20 Late Programs.
7FLIX (CH 86)	6.00 It's Academic. 7.00 Match It. 8.00 Flushed. 9.00 Home Shopping. 10.30 All Together Now - The 100 (PG) 12.00 Smash. (PG) 1.00 Chicago Fire. (M) 3.00 Black-ish. (PG) 4.00 Modern Family. (PG) 5.00 Bondi Vet. (PG) 6.30 10 Years Younger In 10 Days. (PG) 7.30 First Dates UK. (M) 8.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (M) 10.35 Ramsay's Costa Del Nightmares. (M) 11.35 Hell's Kitchen USA. (M) 1.35 First Dates UK. (M) 2.30 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (M) 4.00 Ramsay's Costa Del Nightmares. (M) 5.00 Royal Pains. (M)			

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 (see s 64 (1))
In the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory Probate Jurisdiction

In the estate of **Carmel Jasmine Lynch**, late of Bill McKenzie Gardens, 23 Burkitt Street, Page ACT and formerly of 11/23 Burkitt Street, Page in the Australia Capital Territory, deceased.
 Any person with a claim against the estate of the deceased person, who died on 10 July 2023 must send particulars of the claim to the Public Trustee and Guardian, within 30 days after the day this notice is published.
 After that time the Public Trustee and Guardian intends to distribute the property in the estate having regard only to the claims of which the Public Trustee and Guardian had notice at the time of the distribution.

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NOTICE OF INTENDED DISTRIBUTION
 Administration and Probate Act 1929
In the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory Probate Jurisdiction

In the estate of **RODERICK WILLIAM HOWELL**, late of 3 Watchorn Close, Holt in the Australian Capital Territory, deceased

Any person with a claim against the estate of the deceased person, who died on 6 September 2023 must send particulars of the claim to me, within 30 days after the day this notice is published

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CSIRO Black Mountain site Heritage Management Plan INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT



The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), in consultation with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is updating the Heritage Management Plan for the CSIRO Black Mountain site (2 - 40 Clunies Ross Street, Acton, ACT).

Under the Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999, CSIRO and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water invite comments on the draft heritage management plan from members of the public, Indigenous people with rights and interests in the place, the ACT Government Agency responsible for the site (if any), organisations or other groups with interests in the property.

How To participate:

The consultation period is open from 2 November 2023 to 30 November 2023. During this period, you can:
 • Come to the CSIRO Foundation Building 101 Reception location at 2 - 40 Clunies Ross Street, Acton, ACT between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday - Friday to view the draft Heritage Management Plan; or visit our website by scanning the QR code above.

Enquiries and comments may be submitted via post or email to the following:

Helga Sousa
 Estate, Heritage, and Leasing Coordinator
 CSIRO Business and Infrastructure Services, GPO Box 1700, Canberra ACT 2601
 Phone: +61 2 6246 4093 E-mail: helga.sousa@csiro.au

The closing date for submission of comments is 5pm AEST 30 Nov 2023

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SPORT SOCCER

Brazil beaten in spiteful qualifier

World Cup: Nicolas Otamendi has scored with a towering header to give Argentina a 1-0 win over Brazil in a bad-tempered South American World Cup qualifier in Rio de Janeiro. Defender Otamendi scored from a Giovanni Lo Celso corner in the 63rd minute with Argentina's only shot on target. Brazil's misery was compounded when substitute Joelinton was sent off for hitting Rodrigo de Paul in the face in the 82nd minute. It was Brazil's third loss in a row and first ever World Cup qualifying loss, having gone 63 unbeaten.



Roar to host rare double-header

A-League: After a turbulent week, Brisbane Roar's A-League men and women's teams will play in a double-header at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday for the first time since 2019. The timing of the ALM and ALW back-to-back fixtures could not come at a better time with both sides in sixth position on their respective ladders. The Roar sacked Garrath McPherson as ALW coach last week and installed Alex Smith as his replacement. The men play first at 2pm against Perth Glory with the women to follow against Adelaide United.

'Not going to scrimp': Big plans for Auckland side

A-LEAGUE

NEW Auckland A-League team owner Bill Foley says his club will hit the ground running with key announcements to begin as soon as this weekend.

A football director will be first, a coach will follow next month, and players will sign from January, the American billionaire said on Wednesday.

"We will be successful. We're not in this to finish bottom," he said.

"We've already agreed to a transaction with a director of football operations, a very experienced guy who's going to be great for our team ... within a few days we'll be prepared to announce him.

"He's lining up coaches for interviews and we think within two weeks we'll have a coach in place.

"We're already thinking about players and we were getting a lot of good input from a lot of different people."

Foley, an insurance and financial services tycoon who has begun to invest in sports in the last decade, said "this is not going to be a team that's going to scrimp on spending money."

"We'll take advantage of all of our visa exemption opportunities for players. We'll have our two marquee players," he said.

"We're going to spend the money to get the right players in place."

The big-spending, big-splash vision will be music to the ears to both local fans and the A-Leagues, which has returned a club to Auckland 17 years after the disastrous New Zealand Knights.

The Knights won the wooden spoon in the first two A-League seasons before folding, replaced by the Wellington Phoenix.

When the as-yet-unnamed Auckland side

kick off in the 2024/25 competition, Foley says he wants to be friendly rivals with the Nix, rather than sworn enemies.

"We'll be collegial," he said. "We want to make sure they're successful as well. It's important for New Zealand to have two successful teams, not just one."

Their first football signing may be a raid on the Phoenix, with long-time coach Chris Greenacre linked.

Wellington have responded to Auckland's entry by signing up key Kiwi talents: the latest being Auckland-raised Ben Old, who on Wednesday inked a deal through to 2027.

Foley confirmed his club will play out of south Auckland's Mt Smart Stadium, making them co-tenants with the Warriors NRL side and the Moana Pasifika Super Rugby Pacific team.

There are also long-term hopes of finding a home closer to the CBD.

"Maybe at some point we'll be able to develop a stadium on the waterfront, but you know that's a ways off. It's gonna take us some time," he said.

Foley's approach is clearly to spend what you need to be successful - but he says he's not in the caper to throw money down the drain.

"We will be profitable," he said. "We anticipate the first year we'll probably lose \$5 million and the second year we'll probably lose around \$3 million and then by the third year we should be break-even or modestly profitable."

"We're prepared for that kind of investment and it really doesn't bother us. The most important thing is to put a winner on the pitch."

Neither Foley or the A-Leagues have disclosed how much the insurance and financial services tycoon has paid for the license.



Australia's Harry Souttar, right, and Palestine's Zeid Qunbar battle for the ball. Picture AP

Souttar leads unconvincing win

SOCCEROOS

DEFENDER Harry Souttar says the Socceroos' unconvincing 1-0 win over Palestine was an important lesson about the difficulties of qualifying for the World Cup through Asia.

Australia sit top of group I on six points after Souttar nodded home in the 18th minute at the Jaber Al Ahmed International Stadium in Kuwait.

Only a magnificent save from Mat Ryan just before half-time stopped an excellent Palestine (seven shots, two on target) equalising.

The Socceroos (eight shots, five on target) struggled with Palestine's intense pressing and failed to create many meaningful chances.

"I don't think we were best pleased with our performance. We can play a

lot, lot better," Souttar told Network 10.

"But it's a great lesson for us as a team and a couple of the new guys coming into the squad about playing games away in Asia.

"If you want to go through and qualify, these are the games you've got to win.

"We stood up to the task and end of the day we won the game but we know as a group and as a squad we can play a whole lot better."

With Bangladesh and Lebanon drawing 1-1 in their earlier match, Australia will resume qualifying in March, after the Asian Cup, four points clear with four games to play. The top two teams in the group progress to the next stage.

"It's exactly what I predicted and thought: that Palestine were going to

come out with that type of energy, that type of workrate and fight and you've got to give full credit to Palestine," coach Graham Arnold told Network 10.

"Probably we didn't play our best but the most important thing was the three points.

"I'll have a bit of break now, a bit of a reflection on everything and I look forward to that."

The win was soured by a groin injury to right-back Ryan Strain in the 21st minute.

The game was relocated from the West Bank to Kuwait due to the escalation in violence in the region. Palestine players wore keffiyehs around their necks for their national anthem and both teams lined up around the centre circle before kick-off for a minute's silence.

Canberra cop another season blow with two stars injured

A-LEAGUE WOMEN

Melanie Dinjaski

CANBERRA United just can't catch a break.

Before the season began United had its academy scrapped, then the chief executive of Capital Football that runs the A-League Women team resigned.

The Unite Round announcement saw Canberra lose a home game, and their title campaign has been hurt by back-to-back postponed games at late notice.

Now Chilean international



Saturday, 4pm
at McKellar Park

Maria 'Cote' Rojas and Canberra midfielder Hayley Taylor-Young are injured.

Young is out for the remainder of the season following a torn ankle ligament injury in the lead-up to United's round six game against Newcastle Jets at McKellar Park this Saturday. It's understood to be a re-injury of



Hayley Taylor-Young. Picture by Sitthixay Diithavong

the same ankle she had surgery on in the off-season.

Meanwhile, Rojas is out

with a knee injury, with initial scans revealing a medial ligament issue which could

keep her out for a month.

"She's rarely injured and even when she is, she still wants to train," coach Njegosh Popovich said of Rojas.

"We've got a good medical team supporting her so we'll have to wait and see how long it takes for her to get out of the brace."

Having not played a competitive game in three weeks, United have had inter-squad matches to stay match-fit.

In what is the longest home-and-away A-League Women season ever, Unit-

ed's depth was always going to be tested, but injuries to Rojas and Taylor-Young so early in the year is a blow for Popovich.

Taylor-Young has already had surgery and is now preparing for the rehab process.

"She's hard to replace, but we will keep moving forward," Popovich said. "You're never okay losing a player. It affects the mood, the training sessions, everything."

"It's difficult, but we're a good group, and we've got to make sure they're focused going into every match."

Frustration over bids on academy talent

AFL

NORTHING makes the four northern AFL clubs set aside their keen rivalries quicker than agitation about talent academies.

As West Coast called for a "discussion" on the league's controversial next generation academies, Brisbane chairman Andrew Wellington showed solidarity with Gold Coast after the Suns harvested a rich national draft bounty.

The draft on Monday and Tuesday highlighted two key issues – ongoing disquiet

over the talent academies run by the Queensland and NSW clubs, and growing frustration among the other 14 clubs about their rules around their next generation academies.

West Coast have admitted to frustration after losing academy prospect Lance Collard to St Kilda with pick 28 on Monday night – and under AFL rules, not being able to do anything about it.

By contrast, the Suns, as one of the four northern teams, were able to recruit four of their own academy

Academies grow the game in non-traditional AFL states, which makes the code stronger for everyone.

Brisbane chairman Andrew Wellington

players in the first round. It is tipped to be a bumper crop for Gold Coast and their new coach Damien Hardwick.

Hardwick was unimpressed when Fox Footy posted on X his club had recruited the four academy players for "very little". His

blunt reply to the post was "be better", and Wellington supported his views on Wednesday.

"Academies grow the game in non-traditional AFL states, which makes the code stronger for everyone," the Lions chairman said.

"They address a disadvantage which is real and based on results there's no evidence they have created four northern super clubs at the expense of other clubs."

Meanwhile, the Eagles could do nothing to stop Collard going to St Kilda.

The other 14 clubs cannot stop rivals poaching their NGA players if they are nominated inside the first 40 draft picks.

The northern academies are designed to help those clubs nurture local talent in non-AFL markets.

The NGAs for the other 14 clubs are to nurture junior talent from Indigenous or multicultural backgrounds – essentially, a non-traditional pathway for players. But there's growing angst that teams are losing NGA players and can do nothing about it.

"It's certainly worth discussion. We see again (on Tuesday) night that players were taken inside 40," Eagles list boss Rohan O'Brien said.

"It's really frustrating when you've done a lot of work with those players."



Forward Jake Melksham was re-listed by Melbourne via Wednesday's AFL rookie draft. Picture AAP

Sons of guns among rookie draft additions

AFL

MELBOURNE have added Kynan Brown to their growing list of father-son recruits and re-listed Jake Melksham via an AFL rookie draft scattered with experienced players given career lifelines.

Melksham and fellow veterans Sam Reid (Sydney) and Taylor Duryea (Western Bulldogs) headlined the group of eight players officially re-listed by their clubs as rookies on Wednesday.

They were joined by Adelaide duo Will Hamill and James Borlase, Cooper Stephens (Hawthorn), Adam Kennedy (GWS) and Duryea's Bulldogs teammate Lachie McNeil.

Gold Coast rookie listed former North Melbourne forward Jack Mahony and Geelong picked up ex-Hawthorn ruckman Emerson Jeka.

Chad Wingard (Hawthorn) and Sam Day (Gold Coast) returned to their clubs' primary lists through the pre-season draft, where St Kilda picked

up former Port Adelaide defender Riley Bonner.

Tough midfielder Brown is the son of former Melbourne defender Nathan Brown, who played 146 games for the Demons and retired as a life member of the club in 2007. Known for his contested game and work rate, the 18-year-old who won Vic Metro's best-and-fairest award.

Also on Wednesday, West Coast chose Sturt forward Loch Rawlinson with the first rookie draft selection.

Gold Coast used pick four on Werribee defender Sam Clohesy, who shone in the VFL grand final against the Suns in September.

Essendon selected developing ruckman Vigo Visentini, the younger brother of Port Adelaide's Dante Visentini, from the Sandringham Dragons.

Four players were pre-listed as Category B rookies, headlined by Sydney's father-son recruit Indhi Kirk. The tough midfielder is the son of 2005 Swans premiership captain Brett Kirk.

Not all smooth sailing as Comanche gears up to defend title

SAILING

ANDOO Comanche's crew are vowing to stay on their toes as they defend their Sydney to Hobart line honours title, lest they repeat a serious crash that sent two sailors to hospital.

Comanche has blitzed through preparations for this year's Hobart, where she will be one of four 100-foot supermaxis jostling to reach Hobart the quickest.

Comanche holds the line-honours record and is arguably the fastest monohull in the world, crossing the line first at all four events

of this year's Sydney Blue Water Pointscore Series.

But Comanche's strength – her unmatched power – can be her greatest weakness, a point reiterated to skipper John Winning Jr and his crew earlier this year.

Sailing offshore near the site of another recent line honours victory, the Brisbane to Hamilton Island, the boat ran aground under motor.

Comanche only briefly scraped the bottom of her hull in the shallow water, but it was enough to send a jolt across the huge vessel.

The impact sent crew member Phil Jameson careering into the companionway, landing head-first and cracking his skull open.

"He was unconscious," Winning said. "He doesn't have any recollections of the hours in between, but we were having conversations with him and he doesn't remember any of that."

Fellow crew member Julien Cressant suffered a leg injury so painful he was struggling to walk.

"A couple of really good men got seriously injured, and they're probably two of

the toughest blokes on the boat," Winning said.

"It shows you the tiniest thing on this thing with the loads and the size and the weight of it, it can really hurt you if you get something wrong, and it did."

Both men have since recovered and will join Winning aboard Comanche from December 26.

"It's a good warning sign for us to always be on our toes," Winning said. "The same thing can happen if you do anything wrong, it will come back and bite you this boat. It's not forgiving."



Andoo Comanche will be one of four 100-foot supermaxis vying for Sydney to Hobart line honours. Picture AAP

'Future of Australian cricket' in PM's XI

Caden Helmers

THE "future of Australian cricket" is bound for Manuka Oval to push for a Test recall with Cricket Australia reviving the Prime Minister's XI as a genuine selection trial.

A Prime Minister's XI squad is set to be announced this week with Western Australia all-rounder Cameron Green set to be named in what has emerged as a shootout for Test spots.

Green is trying to reclaim his place in the Australian Test team after being overlooked in favour of Mitchell Marsh during the Ashes series, while three top order batters are fighting to fill David Warner's place at the top of the order.

Western Australia's Cam Bancroft, Queensland's Matt Renshaw and Victoria's Marcus Harris are all set to be named in the squad to face Pakistan at Manuka Oval from

December 6.

The race to fill Warner's place - as tipped by *The Canberra Times* - will be complemented by the arrival of Green, the 24-year-old desperate to add to his 24 Test caps.

The selections are a major boost for the fixture which had struggled for relevance before its COVID-induced hiatus. The Prime Minister's XI jumped between Twenty20 and one-day formats and was played before dwindling crowds.

Cricket ACT officials concede a four-day game is a tough sell for a big crowd, but head of cricket Stu Karppinen says the fixture now has a clear purpose.

"That's one of the big shifts. The PM's now is viewed as part of the selection process for Australian games," Karppinen said.

"It's double-edged, isn't it? The traditional PM's, having some Canberra representation and that festival style is really good, but to

have a four-day match when you have spots on the line and guys get rewards, you see some pretty good cricket.

"More broadly as a spectacle, it probably doesn't attract the larger crowds that we do with the Big Bash and the international matches.

"But for the cricket purists and the importance of showcasing Manuka in those longer formats, I actually think it's quite important.

"Manuka provides really good contests. It's a good test, so for Manuka to play a bit of a place there, it's a really good test run for Manuka to see potential international players because there is a relatively even contest between and ball."

Seven members of last year's Prime Minister's XI squad played international cricket in the year that followed, with Karppinen lauding the selection of Green as a major coup for this summer's fixture.

"He's the future of Australian cricket, isn't he? When you look at the potential and the ability he has got, it's a great opportunity to come and see someone of that calibre," Karppinen said.

"We first got a look at Todd Murphy last year [before he made his Test debut]. Mark Steketee has been there or thereabouts. The calibre of playing they're looking at, you're genuinely looking at a few of the next Test prospects."

The Prime Minister's XI squad is likely to be rounded out by a pair of ACT players as 12th and 13th man.

"I have given the nominations to the selection panel. We'll have two local Canberra players represented," Karppinen said.

"It was great last year, the players in the team did a really great job of embracing the local guys. The two that did it last year had a great time."



Adam Zampa is not holding back against Australia's critics. Picture Instagram

Zampa slams Clarke over 'laughable' criticism

Melanie Dinjaski

AS THE Australian cricket team emerge from their World Cup victory celebrations, one of their star bowlers has taken aim at former skipper turned media personality Michael Clarke.

While many of their teammates have already returned back to Australia, spinner Adam Zampa is still in India before another Twenty20 tour begins later this week.

World Cup festivities in recent days have earned the ire of many Indian cricket fans, with Mitch Marsh targeted for his treatment of the

trophy, and now Zampa has stirred the pot with Clarke.

Clarke was a critic of Australia after their poor start to the World Cup, and Zampa has now shared his "receipts", calling out the former captain.

On his Instagram account, Zampa roughly paraphrased a Clarke quote in media from earlier in the tournament, clearly mocking the assessment.

"If we are getting shown up like that by South Africa, with the spin in the sub-continent teams, we will be laughable," Zampa wrote.

"If we are not careful, the

conversation we have been having about the Wallabies the last three weeks, we will be having about Australian cricket team in two weeks' time. We should have turned up to India in our prime."

Zampa followed the jab with a picture of himself with his World Cup medal in his mouth and the caption: "One spinner, one winner".

Zampa thrived at the World Cup in India, named in the team of the tournament having claimed 23 wickets at 22.39, with his best bowling figures, 4-8.

On *Sky Sports' Big Sports Breakfast* on Wednesday

morning, Clarke seemed unaware of Zampa's comments, but opened the show sharing his congratulations to the Australian team.

"What a phenomenal win, and now there's the talk of it is our greatest win ever?" Clarke said.

Zampa is one of seven from the World Cup squad that are remaining in India for a five-match Twenty20 series starting after midnight on Thursday, along with Travis Head, Glenn Maxwell, Sean Abbott, Josh Inglis, Steve Smith and Marcus Stoinis.

David Warner won't be part of the Twenty20 tour,

instead readying for his final Test series over summer before retiring from the format.

West Australian allrounder Aaron Hardie will replace Warner.

Warner will play in the Test series against Pakistan in Australia in December and January, with the SCG match to be his last.

Selectors are planning to use the upcoming four-day Prime Minister's XI clash in Canberra - also against Pakistan - as a chance for Cameron Bancroft, Marcus Harris and Matt Renshaw to prove their worth as potential openers.

Five penalty runs help keep Sixers' hopes alive

FIVE penalty runs have proved crucial as Sydney Sixers kept their flickering WBBL finals hopes alive with a six-wicket win over Brisbane Heat.

Maidan Brown (21 not out off 15 balls) and Mathilda Carmichael (28 not out off 20) got the Sixers home with one delivery remaining in a brilliant run chase at Allan Border Field that had an unusual twist. In the 10th over, Heat spinner Amelia Kerr fielded a throw with a towel in her hand that she had been using to dry the ball, an illegal act which incurred a five-run penalty that ultimately proved costly.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Adelaide Strikers had taken the outright lead on the WBBL ladder after a rescue mission by opener Laura Wolvaardt (70 not out) set up a thrilling three-run win over Sydney Thunder.

The clash in Brisbane had ramifications for the finals with Sixers moving to fifth on 12 points, two behind Brisbane who are in fourth and not yet across the line for a finals berth.

The Sixers still have significant ground to make up on the Heat in their net run rate with each side to play Sydney Thunder in their final match.

Kerr (64 off 44) and Mignon du Preez (42 off 27) had combined for their third half-century stand of the season to take the Heat to 7-176.

The Sixers were given a fast start by Ellyse Perry (20) after the star allrounder had taken three wickets with the ball. Erin Burns (35) walloped three sixes in her best knock of the summer.

'They have created their own legacy'

Scott Bailey

PAT Cummins believes his team have created a career-defining legacy with their World Cup win, after a long six months on the road in India and England.

Cummins and other Australian players began landing back home on Wednesday morning, after days of celebrations in India.

Seven members of the squad have remained in India to feature in the looming Twenty20 series, while the other half have returned to prepare for the Test summer.

Australia's triumph came after two months in India earlier this year, followed by another two months in England for the Ashes with only brief breaks before the World Cup.

The year has netted them a World Test Championship victory and ODI World Cup win, after also retaining the Ashes on foreign soil to go with a 2-1 Test series loss in India.

"I think they have created their own legacy," Cummins said of his side after he arrived at Sydney Airport on Wednesday.

"A World Cup, you only get one chance every four years and especially playing somewhere like India, it's hard.

"To be pitted up against the rest of the world and come away with a medal, it doesn't get any better than that.

"Adding to that an away Ashes series, A World Test Championship. We couldn't have planned for much better. So a pretty satisfied group."

Cummins said he was still "buzzing" from the win, with Sunday's six-wicket triumph over the host nation in the final yet to fully sink in.

Widely praised for his captaincy in the semi-final and final, Cummins admitted he thought Australia's tournament was close to over after they lost their first two games to India and South Africa.

"To be honest (I did think we were long odds)," Cummins said.

"It almost became a sudden death really. We thought we pretty much had to be flawless from there on in just to make the semis.



Australia captain Pat Cummins has detailed how his team have created a long-lasting legacy in 2023. Picture AP

"And we pretty much were. We started to find ways to win, even when we weren't having our best days.

"Even before the tournament, we knew playing ODI cricket in India, it's a pretty tough assignment.

"So just to make the semis we were pretty pumped and keen to go a bit further."

The core of Australia's group will fight for the country to have all five ICC men's and women's trophies at next year's T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and USA.

That will likely be the last major tournament for the majority of the squad, with seven players aged 32 or older and only four players in their 20s.

We couldn't have planned for much better. So a pretty satisfied group.

Pat Cummins

Asked if the three pace bowlers could still be around for the next ODI World Cup in South Africa after they also lifted the trophy in 2015, Josh Hazlewood conceded it was unlikely he, Mitchell Starc and Cummins would all feature.

"South Africa, that might suit us. But four

years is a long time, so we'll see," Hazlewood said.

Meanwhile, a record 1.25 million fans attended matches during the 13th edition of the World Cup.

A total of 1,250,307 fans watched the October 5 to November 19 showpiece event from the stands, surpassing the previous mark of 1.016 million set at the 2015 edition in Australia and New Zealand, according to the International Cricket Council.

While the early matches not involving runners-up India had plenty of empty seats in venues, overall spectator figures had already surpassed the one million mark with six games to go.

Sri Lanka OK to play, but South Africa handed U19 World Cup

SRI Lanka have been allowed to continue playing internationally, but next year's Under-19 Cricket World Cup will now be hosted by South Africa, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has ruled.

The decision was one of several taken by the ICC including barring post-puberty birth males playing women's internationals and a stop clock trial to speed up over rates. Sri Lanka's membership of the ICC was suspended with immediate effect for government interference on November 10, after the island nation's ministry of sport dismissed the board of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) and replaced it with an interim committee.

This followed the country's poor performance at this year's World Cup but

the sacking was stayed by Sri Lanka's Court of Appeal.

"After hearing representation from SLC, the ICC Board decided that Sri Lanka can continue to compete internationally both in bilateral cricket and ICC events after being suspended recently for breaching its obligations as a Member in particular the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and without government interference," the ICC said on Tuesday.

"However, funding to SLC will be controlled by the ICC and the ICC Board confirmed Sri Lanka will no longer host the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024, which will now be held in South Africa."

The 16-nation tournament is scheduled to start on January 13 with Australia drawn with Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe

and Namibia in the first round group stage.

Sri Lanka are due to tour England for a three-Test series starting in August but have no other fixtures scheduled in red or white-ball cricket.

A stop clock is to be introduced on a trial basis in men's ODI and T20I cricket from December 2023 to April 2024, which will be used to regulate the amount of time taken between overs.

If the team is not ready to bowl the next over within 60 seconds of the previous over being completed, a five-run penalty will be imposed the third time it happens.

Any male or female participant who have been through any form of male puberty will now not be allowed participate in the international women's game.

'Hard to fathom': Labuschagne slams T20s

MARNUS Labuschagne says it is "astounding" and "hard to fathom" that Australia will play India in a Twenty20 match just four days after the ODI World Cup final.

Labuschagne and seven other members of Australia's triumphant World Cup squad arrived home on Wednesday, ready to rest before preparing for the Test summer.

Less rest awaits, though, for the other seven members of the winning squad. Australia are due to face India in a T20 match in Visakhapatnam on Thursday night, after days of celebrating their Sunday's ODI World Cup win over the same team.

Images of Travis Head's celebrations in particular have gone viral, with the player of the final appearing in several photos on social media as recently as Tuesday night in India. Mitch Marsh quipped on return to Australia on Wednesday that it would "be a miracle" if Head played in the first T20, while Pat Cummins also joked about the batter's chances. Jokes aside, the situation does highlight the issues with cricket's seriously congested calendar.



Marnus Labuschagne has questioned the need for the Twenty20 series in India.

"We had pretty much two days of celebrating, which was nice. And just to really soak it up and soak in what we actually just achieved," Labuschagne said.

"But I mean, it is astonishing that there's another game on tomorrow. That's hard to fathom.

"It's hard to fathom how those guys are going to be playing in a day's time. But that's just the nature of the scheduling, it's the nature of cricket at the moment."

SPORT

Mariota wants to be a one-club man just like his Papa

RUGBY LEAGUE

David Polkinghorne

IT'S a comparison Ata Mariota hopes he can make come true. He'd love to be the next Josh Papali'i - albeit with a Mariota twist.

Mariota's made Canberra his home since arriving in 2019, which was why he's re-signed until the end of 2026.

The *Canberra Times* revealed Mariota had extended his stay at the start of November, with the Raiders announcing both he and winger Michael Asomua's new contracts on Wednesday.

Asomua's on a development deal for next year, but will then move into the top 30 for 2025-26.

Mariota showed he was an NRL prop of the future with his barnstorming performance in the elimination final loss to Newcastle.

The 21-year-old ran for 193 metres, made three tackle busts and 33 tackles in his 56 minutes of work.

That performance filled him with the confidence that he has what it takes to establish himself as an NRL player in 2024.

Whether that's on the Raiders' bench or in the starting 13 he didn't mind - just wherever he fitted in.

As a Samoan prop who is not afraid to have big hair, Mariota's drawn comparisons with Raiders great Papali'i.

Rather than shy away from it, Mariota saw it as a compliment and he's determined to emulate Papali'i's career as much as he can.

That included the 21-year-old being a one-club player.

Mariota's looked to learn as much as he can both off Papali'i and Joe Tapine - the all-star engine room of the Green Machine's



The Raiders have re-signed young prop Ata Mariota. Picture by Elesia Kurtz

forward pack.

He was wary of being "passive" next season, having been named Raiders rookie of the year, and was determined to take the next step.

"It's a special place in my heart - the first rugby league club I've ever played for - so I just want to be here forever," Mariota said.

"I look up to 'Paps' - he's never changed his club and I want to be like that too, be a one-club man.

"I see it as a compliment - knowing that people see me as 'Papa'. I look up to him a lot.

"He's one of the forwards that I really want to try and copy, you know what I mean, but I also want to do my own thing."

While Mariota has Papali'i, Asomua has Jordan Rapana.

The 20-year-old winger looked up to the former New Zealand international.

I just want to be here forever.

Ata Mariota

He's seen Rapana's work ethic - both in games and at training - and has taken on the veteran Raiders flyer as a role model since he moved to Canberra from Griffith.

Asomua said the batch of young guns coming through the Green Machine ranks wanted to follow in the footsteps of Jarrod Croker (retired) and Jack Wighton (South Sydney).

Croker, Wighton and Papali'i have all been mainstays of the Raiders team since 2012.

Asomua hoped a fresh batch of youngsters could form a similar backbone in

the future.

He took confidence from good mate Ethan Strange making his NRL debut this year - playing in the centres against Melbourne.

Strange could find himself starting at five-eighth in 2024, with the young half currently in a battle with Raiders recruit Kaeo Weekes for the No.6 jersey.

Asomua had a lighthearted moment in his first press conference when his phone rang, only for it to be Mariota - who was ringing to make sure Asomua wasn't late.

"A few of my mates are still here, like Chevy [Stewart], Strangey and 'Prince' [Esera] - we all want to be like 'Raps' and Jack Wighton and Jarrod Croker," he said.

"They all stayed at the same club and grew up, had kids together and just knew each other better. That's the main goal for me - just to stay at the one club."

He's back: Millar defies injury in return

GOLF

Caden Helmers

IT WOULD be some story if Matt Millar could claim the Australian PGA championship this week.

"Story or miracle," Millar laughed. "Honestly, I'll be happy just to play and get through it without any dramas. Hopefully I can play again next week. It'll be a bit of a case by case, hole by hole, shot by shot."

Because Millar has barely been able to play golf this year, with the 47-year-old pencilled in for back surgery in January to fuse two spinal bones together.

A combination of rest, injections, and rehabilitation might give Millar a window - however small it may be - to get through the Australian PGA championship at Brisbane's Royal Queensland and next week's



Matt Millar will play at the Australian PGA championship. Picture by Dion Georgopoulos

Australian Open in Sydney. But Millar - who opted into this week's tournament after playing back-to-back rounds at Federal in Canberra just days ago - concedes his back could go at any time.

"I've got a large problem

with the L5-S1 joint. It's pretty wrecked," Millar said.

"No disc left between it and the one above, so it's trying to fuse itself by growing a bone off the side but that's not really working because that bone gets in the

way when you bend through impact and beyond when you're hitting shots.

"It collides with the bone, and there are nerves running through there which can get trapped as well.

"It's pretty challenging to

manage, that's for sure. We'll have a fusion done of the L5-S1 in January. It's not ideal, but it's probably the only way forward really, to be able to play any golf. I want to play some senior golf going forward, so I've got to make sure I do that and get that right for a couple of years' time."

Three-time Australian PGA champion and 2022 British Open winner Cameron Smith will enter as the tournament favourite in Brisbane on Thursday morning, while plenty of eyes will be on Min Woo Lee, Cameron Davis, Adam Scott and Polish talent Adrian Meronk.

Whether he is hampered by a back injury or not, it seems the kind of field Millar is loving being a part of.

"Absolutely, I really look forward to it, especially at the moment considering I haven't really been able to play this year," Millar said.

"I've been really fighting the back injuries a lot, and will probably only get the opportunity - if it holds together - to play this week and next week in Sydney.

"Then I'll be having an operation done in early January and be out for some time from there.

"It's been another long year, not being able to play as much as I'd like. I'm certainly really excited about this one, but I probably don't really have much form on the board though.

"There are some good fields this week and next week, that's for sure. Europe have brought a pretty good field with them, some Americans, and your household names here - Smith, Adam Scott, Leishman, not to mention some others as well. It's certainly a good field, so if you want to win, you'll have to play well."

How ACT can help Kookaburras return

HOCKEY

Melanie Dinjaski

DO YOU want Kookaburras and Hockeyroos games, Canberra?

Ahead of this weekend's Hockey One finals, the message is simple from Hockey Australia chief executive David Pryles.

"Let's pack it out," he told *The Canberra Times*.

Pryles confirmed that another strong turn-out at Lyneham for the two-day Hockey One finale featuring the Canberra Chill women, will go a long way in convincing the ACT government to fund international fixtures in the capital.

"We want games in Canberra," Pryles said.

"We have a strategic plan to take international games all around Australia and we've done that this year, but they've been assisted to host content with funding from each

state's tourism body.

"We've seen the ACT government invest in the GWS Giants, cricket, and there's an A-League team - we want them to consider investing in our sport too."

Pryles said taking international content across the country brings a significant cost, which is why government funding is necessary.

He argued that Hockey Australia has shown their faith and investment in Canberra by backing the capital to host the Hockey One finals this weekend, and the Australian Indoor Hockey Championships in January next year - a month-long event with 72 teams which Pryles predicts will be a major economy boost for the ACT.

Hockey Australia is calling on that love to be reciprocated by the ACT government, and another bumper attendance at Lyneham will only help their cause.

The Hockey One finals will see eight teams of men and women descend on Canberra this weekend, with the Chill women vying for their first title.

It will be the first time since 2016 that a national tournament is played in Canberra, but an international match featuring the Kookaburras or Hockeyroos hasn't been played in the capital since 2013.

Hockey ACT chief executive Rob Sheekey has also campaigned for the government to contribute to bring the Lyneham facilities up to international standards.

They've received funding for new lights which will be completed early next year, but they're still working with the ACT government on pitch replacements needed at the end of 2024.

At the last home game for the Canberra Chill in the Hockey One competition, Lyneham set a league attendance record of 2281.

HOCKEY ONE FINALS

■ Saturday: Women's Semi-Final - NSW Pride v Canberra Chill at 2.30pm at Lyneham

Hockey Australia commended Sheekey and the ACT for supporting the sport so passionately as they have, with the targeting of family demographics expected to boost participation numbers in Canberra.

"Canberra deserves more international hockey," Sheekey said.

"I know Hockey Australia are certainly keen to grow it and have more content here.

"We need some support from ACT government to make that happen, and an upgrade to some of our facilities at Lyneham to support us to host international hockey again, and that's all in the works."



Cavalry third-base Min Park is one of the four Korean players from the Kia Tigers. Picture supplied

Cavalry has eyes on hosting Korean Tigers

BASEBALL

David Polkinghorne

IT'S a chance to bring an Asian baseball giant to Canberra.

The Canberra Cavalry just want a bit of help from the ACT government to make it happen.

The ABL opening round has gone viral in both South Korea and Japan thanks to the influx of players Down Under. It's seen a massive spotlight on the Cavalry with two of the ABL's three biggest social media posts this season involving the capital's baseball team.

The ABL announcement of the Kia Tigers playing for Canberra attracted more than 100,000 views on Instagram, while a hit by Cavalry first-base Junpei Azuma, from the Yokohama Baystars, reached more than 300,000 people on X.

Korean baseball fans were even at Blacktown last weekend to watch the Cavalry play Sydney.

That glare will be on Narrabundah Ballpark this weekend for the Cavalry's first home series of the season - against the Melbourne Aces - which starts with game one of four on

Thursday night.

Korean club Tigers, who visited the facilities in September, will have five players with the Cavalry over the course of the summer and they're considering holding their pre-season "spring training" in Canberra in February. It would again bring the Asian spotlight on the ACT with all the Tigers' stars set to descend.

Cavalry general manager Ciaran O'Rourke said it was a massive opportunity not only for the ABL club, but for Canberra's exposure in Asia.

The Tigers would look to hire not only Narrabundah

Ballpark, but one of the adjoining fields as well for the duration of their spring training.

But the Cavalry are set to make a loss on hosting the Tigers as they quoted the Korean giants the rental cost for the respective grounds.

The government will hit the Cavalry with an additional charge due to extra work required to ensure the fields are at a suitable standard. The matter was even raised during a government standing committee inquiry into annual and financial reports last week.

"If we have to pay the

full fee then we're probably going to take a loss," O'Rourke said. "But in saying that we're willing to take a loss because how often do you get a professional club wanting to bring 45 players and 20 staff to Canberra?"

"We have a brilliant opportunity ... for Canberra as a city to put itself in front of eyeballs in a new country and we would like a little bit more support from the ACT government in terms of making that happen."

ABL ROUND 2 - Thursday: Canberra Cavalry v Melbourne Aces at Narrabundah Ballpark, 6.30pm, Friday 6.30pm, Saturday 6pm and Sunday 1pm.

LeBron shoots to another milestone

BASKETBALL

LEBRON James has become the first NBA player to surpass 39,000 career points as the LA Lakers ran out 131-99 winners over the Utah Jazz.

The 38-year-old reached the milestone early in the first quarter of Wednesday's home win (AEDT) with a shot from beyond the three-point arc.

The only other NBA player to have passed 38,000 points was legendary centre Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (38,387), while the closest active player to James's record is Phoenix Suns veteran Kevin Durant, still way behind on 27,331.

The 21-year NBA veteran finished with 17 points, nine assists and seven rebounds against the Jazz, who never led at any point.

James was put on ice for the entire fourth quarter as the Lakers opened up a lead that stretched to 39 points late.

The Lakers have now completed a 4-0 run through the group stage of the NBA's inaugural in-season tournament and will likely host a quarter-final next month.

Tyrese Haliburton is firming as a contender for the tournament's MVP award after inspiring the Indiana Pacers to a 157-152 comeback defeat of Atlanta.

Haliburton had a season-low 12 points against Orlando on Monday but recovered to score 26 in the third quarter alone against the Hawks.

His efforts sparked a fight-back after the Hawks had led by as many as 20 points in the minutes before half-time.

The Canberra Times

SPORT

**'LET'S PACK IT OUT'**

How you can help internationals return

HOCKEY: PAGE 43**'I WANT TO BE HERE FOREVER'**

Raiders young gun wants to be like his Papa

LEAGUE: PAGE 42**'IT'S PRETTY WRECKED'**

Millar defies injury in Aussie PGA comeback

GOLF: PAGE 42**'The future of Australian cricket'**

Four Test-capped players set to face Pakistan in Canberra as the PM's XI finds relevance again

PAGE 40

Picture AAP

'Canberra can't miss this'**SOCCER**

David Polkinghorne

GIVEN the Matildas' success and popularity at the World Cup, the ACT government has to bring Women's Asian Cup games to Canberra.

That's the opinion of Capital Football chairman Ange Konstantinou.

The government opted not to bid for World Cup games only for the tournament to be a massive success right across Australia - even the games that didn't involve Australia.

Football Australia chief executive James Johnson was "very confident" of hosting the 2026 Women's Asian Cup.

Canberra hosted multiple sold-out games during the Men's Asian Cup in 2015, with Canberra Stadium voted the best surface of the tournament. Konstantinou felt the government should now bring the women's event to the capital.

"I think so. That'll be something we'd need to push I think, and the government would want to try and

get games here if they could," he said.

"If they do bring them to Canberra I'm sure they'll be well supported and the local people will love it.

"I'm not sure where the government is up to with that or what Football Australia is doing at this point in time."

FA hierarchy continued lobbying to host the cup on Wednesday at its annual general meeting in Sydney, attended by the Asian Football Confederation's women's football committee chair Kanya Keomany.

"This process will be decided very soon by the Asian Football Confederation and we believe we're in a very strong position to host," Johnson said.

"You saw what Australia can do when we hosted the Women's World Cup and we believe we can replicate that in January 2026.

"We had an opportunity to continue to push our merit for our case and we're very confident that we will be hosting."

Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan have also bid to host the

cup with a decision expected within months.

The fresh lobbying came as FA reported a net surplus of \$671,000 for the financial year, a figure forecast to grow in coming years by Johnson.

"We are very happy, it's a strong financial report ... we're in a good space," he said. "What we have focused on in the past 24 months is really growing specific revenue streams.

"Sponsorship has been a focus with both our Matildas and Socceroos, media [broadcast rights] has been a

focus, match-day revenue ... we're expecting each of these three revenue streams to increase going forward."

The FA board elected Anter Isaac as chair, replacing Chris Nikou.

Isaac, a former Football NSW chair, said he was taking over with a mandate to continue the momentum generated by hosting this year's Women's World Cup.

Isaac said the Matildas' performance at the showcase tournament had emboldened Australian soccer.

- with AAP